5-26-04

WWW.LAVC.EDU WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 61, ISSUE NO. 12 MAY 26, 2004 *HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!*

FINALS SCHEDULE *Page 2*

Graduation Preparations Underway

■ Nearly 300 fewer students are graduating than last year.

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College will hold its annual graduation ceremony at 4:30 p.m. on June 8 at Monarch Stadium.

"It's an annual event that holds much importance," said Assistant Dean of Student Services Florentino Manzano. "We want students to go through this ceremony because it holds so much meaning for them."

The graduation office confirmed that 1,082 students are graduating this semester, including 329 students from last fall. This represents a significant drop from last year, when Valley saw 1,343 students graduate.

"Most individuals who are graduating seem to be majoring in liberal arts," said Graduation Office spokeswoman Martha Rios. "Most of the students also seem to be graduating with an A.A. or A.S. degree."

Individuals eligible for graduation are mailed a packet with general information about what one must do to prepare for the ceremony.

"We send out this packet to them so that they can get a head start," explained Dr. Sherri Rodriguez, associate dean of student services. "We don't want anyone to be left out."

Included in the packet is a brochure noting rehearsal schedules, class ring information and other general information designed to help graduates and their families.

Manzano added that Valley encourages students who obtained their degrees at the end of the fall semester to participate in the graduation ceremony.

"It's a culmination for the students, as well as their families," he said. "We don't want them to miss out."

Sun Lovers Beware

■ Skin cancer is very common - and very avoidable.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

More than 1 million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year - more than half of all newly diagnosed cancers.

The summer sun is on its way and it is necessary to take some simple steps to protect your skin.

Warmer temperatures lure people to the pool or beach, exposing their skin to lots of sunlight. The cool water is deceptive and does not protect from sun damage.

A little common sense can help to avoid a potentially deadly disease, although not all skin tumors are malignant. It is not necessary to avoid sunlight, but it is crucial to

BASIC SUN SAFETY TIPS

Stay out of the sun between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., when its rays are strongest.
Reflected sunlight (such as off water) does nearly as much damage as direct sunlight.
Stay cool, comfortable and protected by wearing tightly knit clothing and long-sleeved garments made from light fabric.
Wear sunscreen.

please see *Cancer* page 4

VALLEY PEOPLE

TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

THANK YOU - California Highway Patrol Officer Michael Warner receives a big thanks for his and other officers' assistance when Robyn Mae Rose (seated) was seriously injured by a hit-and-run driver in 2002. The ceremony was held in the Music Building Recital Hall on Monday.

This Is One Rose in Full Bloom

■ Student survives horrific accident and more to pursue her dreams at Valley.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Robyn Mae Rose has become a Valley College fixture, motoring about in her wheelchair and chatting it up with friends. She's wrapping up her third semester this spring, her first on the Dean's List. But from her sunny disposition one wouldn't guess that just two years ago the aspiring choir teacher was lying by the side of the road after a hit-and-run driver left her for dead.

Dianne Wintrob, chair of the music department and one of Rose's instructors, said you can't help but love Robyn because of her incredible zest for life in spite of everything she's been through.

"She's older than most of the other students in class but when she came in here she just galvanized the class," Wintrob said. "She got the younger students talking and expressing themselves just by the sheer energy of her personality."

Rose, 42, born in Canadajua, New York, is mother to five children from 13 to 24 and has three grandchildren. She lives in Panorama City with her 13-year-old daughter. Her positive outlook is largely due to the fact that she's been given a second chance at life.

Things weren't always so bright for Rose or her younger brother Chuck as they moved through the foster care system. For a brief few years, their father got them back together but returned them to the system three years later. It was 22 years before she saw him again.

Carol Crothers of Granada Hills was fostering Rose's brother when she found out he had a sister. She reunited the siblings when Robyn was 14 and since then both have called her mom.

"She was raising her three children, my brother and I and two kids she adopted," Rose said. "She also got legal guardianship of my oldest children who were taken away by social services because of their father's abusiveness and we raised them together."

On May 16, 2002, Rose was changing a flat tire on the side of the 101 freeway in Hollywood. Witnesses saw a light-colored BMW going an estimated 120 mph when it veered from the fast lane to the shoulder where Rose was working. Her traveling companion was barely brushed by the speeding car – with enough force to tear off the BMW's side-view mirror – and sustained minor injuries. Rose wasn't so lucky.

"When it hit me, I went flying in the air and landed in the slow lane of the freeway and I remember thinking 'I'm going to get hit again' so I rolled myself onto the shoulder," Rose said. "I remember seeing my leg lying on the freeway but didn't realize at the time what it was."

When they put her in the

please see *Rose* page 4

Angelides Torpedoes Budget Revisions

■ State Treasurer agrees with Legislative Analyst that budget is short-sighted.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

It was "thumbs down" for the governor's May revision of his 2004-05 budget last week from State Treasurer Phil Angelides and Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill.

In her budget analysis, Hill said that the governor's plan is full of "one-time fixes," pushes too many problems into the future and makes little progress toward the goal of eliminating the state's long-term structural imbalance.

Hill's overview stated that "the May revision adds to the state's future spending commitments.

These factors have resulted in a worsening in the state's long-term fiscal outlook."

Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye, Valley College's vice president of student affairs, has mixed feelings in response to the May revise and the effects it may have on higher education.

"On the plus side we have approval for 3 percent growth and it is interesting that both the senate and the assembly are against the governor's effort to take our matriculation funding," said Delahoussaye.

She added that the senate and the assembly have not yet reached agreement over whether the fee increase should be $22 or $26 and there are no finalized plans to add the B.A. differential that imposes an additional $50 cost to students who already hold a bachelor's degree. "It's not too late for students to get their voices heard," she said. "It's not over 'til it's over."

The Republican governor is urging the Democrat-controlled legislature to pass the revisions quickly "to show the people that we're continuing to work together to keep California moving forward."

Meanwhile, the state's economy improved slightly on Friday, May 21, with the announcement that Moody's Investors Service is upgrading California's credit rating.

Although California's credit rating remains the lowest in the nation, the upgrade is the first improvement in four years.

The nation's two other large credit rating services, Fitch and Standard & Poors continue to view California's credit at near junk bond status.

"We believe that the numbers are strong enough that they trend toward recovery," said Tim Blake, Moody's lead California analyst. "The outlook is positive."

Blake also explained that while the governor's plan backs away from many spending cuts he proposed in January, the plan could be politically attractive to the Legislature and may be adopted without delay.

He said that if the governor's plan is passed with minimal changes, the state's cash flow outlook for the next two years appears stable.

Blake noted that the state continues to struggle with an enormous spending imbalance that cannot be solved solely by an improving economy.

Angelides remains less than optimistic according to his comments last week in response to Hill's overview of the May Revise.

Angelides said that "Elizabeth Hill confirms what the Treasurer's Office has pointed out and will continue to point out in the weeks ahead: The Governor's revised plan is chock full of one-time fixes, accounting gimmicks and borrowed money that will put California right back where we started from – facing massive deficits for years to come."

The Treasurer said he agrees with Ms. Hill that there is no better time than now to address our State's structural budget imbalance with a mix of spending cuts and revenue solutions.

"The Governor's revised budget proposal worsens the State's fiscal condition despite an improving economy," said Angelides.

The Bagramian Era Begins

■ New ASU president hopes to get past controversy and to the important work ahead.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

When asked about the recent ASU election controversy that included accusations of racially-biased voting and responses that the accusations themselves were racist, President-elect Levon Bagramian hesitated to answer.

"I don't think they should be complaining about how one ethnicity voted," he finally said. "They should be complaining about why the other ethnicities did not [vote. Besides,] the complaints were factually wrong; the majority of Armenians did not vote for me."

The Valley College 2002-2003 Fact Book and Effectiveness Manual lists students whose primary language is Armenian as only 10 percent of the campus population. By comparison, Spanish speakers comprise 18 percent and English speakers make up 58.8 percent of the student body. By ethnicity, Asians (14 percent) and Hispanics (40 percent) have larger representation on campus than do Armenians.

"Igor and I are close friends, and we laugh about this. I understand that people are disappointed their candidate lost, but this is not the way to go about [dealing with] it."

Bagramian, a 23-year-old political science major, reiterated that his primary concern is to improve Valley College's counseling system.

"Students must have an adequate infrastructure of counseling and caring to enable them to move on to the next stage, whether in a four-year college or in life," he said. "I've spoken with 4.0 to 1.8 [GPA] students and everything in between. … This is their number one issue."

The president-elect described what he sees as a need for greater accessibility, firmer direction (more comprehensive counseling and more concrete advice) and stronger personal relationships between students and counselors.

"I spoke with a 35-40-year-old student whose English [is not very good]," he said. "She was almost in tears over not knowing the system."

Without offering specific solutions yet, he cited one suggestion that has come from his conversations with counselors: to refine the appointment system.

"[After talking with them,] it's clear that counselors are doing their best to address these issues. This is not a witch hunt, … it's an ongoing process and dialogue. … I'm not expecting radical changes, but specific things must be addressed," he said.

Toward that end, he said a commission of ASU members and concerned students to study the problem and make suggestions would be "a good idea." He also wants to conduct a school-wide survey to determine what issues are most pressing to Valley students. But his concerns don't end there.

"If that could be considered my 'domestic policy,' there is also 'foreign policy': I strongly believe in representing students outside Valley College's borders," Bagramian said. He pledged to continue the current administration's work in lobbying against fee raises.

A big believer in collaboration with other community colleges for political action, he said that unity with other schools "shows strength and power. It lets [Sacramento] know you represent a real threat. [Even if you could only get] 100 students at Valley interested, together with the other eight schools, that's 900 very active students."

"We complain about student apathy but we have to give voters incentive to care," Bagramian said. "Students can do something about [the issues that concern them]."

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR
MR. PRESIDENT - Bagramian

Interview with outgoing president James Brevard online - Go to www.lavalleystar.com

FUTURE SHOCK FOOD

It's Not Nice to Fool Mother Nature

■ The future is now. But is this your only choice?

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS & LAGINA PHILLIPS
STAFF WRITERS

Third World nations are struggling with the pros and cons of genetically modified foods and pesticide proliferation. But how do you know that the soybeans in your bowl are any more natural than a plastic fruit?

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SALVADOR AGUILAR

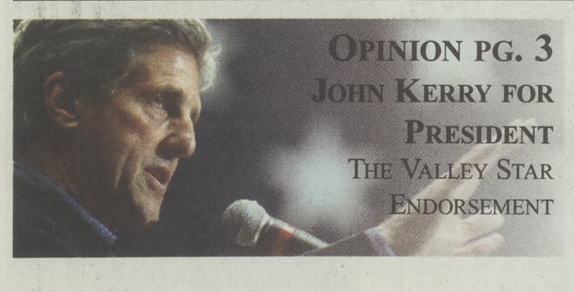
"With proper regulation, GM fruits could deliver effective vaccines and other therapeutic agents to fight the myriad of diseases prevalent in developing countries," said author Alan McHughen in his book "Pandora's Picnic Basket: The Potential Hazards of Genetically Modified Foods."

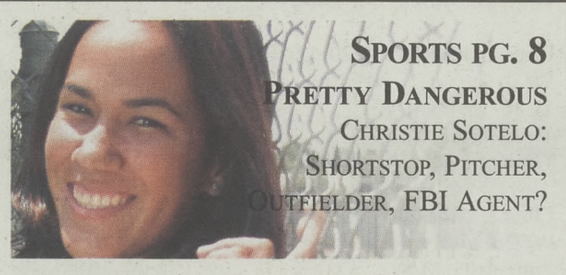
Not everyone is on board with the GM revolution, though.

"The biggest problem I see is that this food will have a negative impact on our ecology as well as on humans," said James Barnard, a physiological sciences teacher at UCLA, in a press release. "[The chemicals] get into the environment and into the food, drastically altering the animals that live in and around farming areas having a negative impact in our ecological environment."

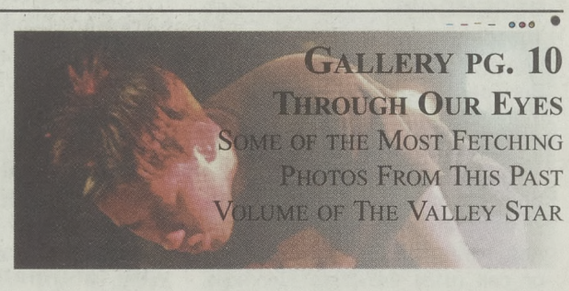
California produces more than half of the nation's fresh fruits and vegetables. Americans are eating more fruits and vegetables

please see *GM Foods* page 5


OPINION PG. 3
JOHN KERRY FOR PRESIDENT
THE VALLEY STAR ENDORSEMENT


SPORTS PG. 8
PRETTY DANGEROUS
CHRISTIE SOTELO: SHORTSTOP, PITCHER, OUTFIELDER, FBI AGENT?

VALLEY LIFE PG. 6
THE ICE CREAM COMETH
SUMMER MUSIC, ARTS, AND ALL THAT JAZZ


GALLERY PG. 10
THROUGH OUR EYES
SOME OF THE MOST FETCHING PHOTOS FROM THIS PAST VOLUME OF THE VALLEY STAR

NEWS REEL

DELAYED ACCEPTANCE?:

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, (D-Mass.), announced over the weekend that he may delay accepting the nomination of his party in July. A decision is expected this week.

Some of Kerry's advisers recommended the delay to allow for further fundraising. According to election law, once a nomination has been accepted, the nominee is prohibited from using fundraising dollars. When a nomination is accepted, $75 million in public funding is provided.

"DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD":

President George W. Bush addressed the nation Monday night to lay out his five-point plan for 'achieving peace and freedom' in Iraq by the transfer of sovereignty in July.

"There are difficult days ahead, and the way forward may sometimes appear chaotic," Bush told the audience at the Army War College in Carlisle, Penn.

Bush's plan includes: handing over authority to a sovereign Iraqi government; helping to establish stability and security; rebuilding Iraqi infrastructure; increasing involvement by other countries; and, moving to hold national elections by January.

Bush also pledged to tear down the Abu Ghraib prison, the site of the recent mistreatment of prisoners.

TO SMITE THE CROSS:

Los Angeles County faces a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union if officials do not remove a cross that appears on the county's seal.

The seal was adopted in 1957 and the cross pays tribute to the missionary influences on the development of the region, according to officials.

The ACLU took similar action against the city of Redlands earlier this year, to force the removal of a cross from the city seal. The ACLU claims in both cases that the image in unconstitutional.

CAMPUS EYE

UCLA REPRESENTATIVE:
Wednesday, May 26, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Career/Transfer Center (see bottom for more information).

MULTICULTURAL FAIR:
The Valley College Diversity Committee is hosting an afternoon of events Wednesday, May 26, 11:30 - 2 p.m. in Monarch Square.

FINANCIAL AID/ FAFSA WORKSHOP:
Wednesday, May 19, 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., (sign up in the Financial Aid Office, ext. 2412).

CAREER/TRANSFER CENTER ORIENTATION/ TOUR CAREER COUNSELING WORKSHOP:
Monday, May 24, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Career/Transfer Center (see bottom for more information).

"PRE-MEDICAL STUDIES" CAREER/TRANSFER CENTER WORKSHOP:
Thursday, May 27, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., FL 106 (see bottom for more information).

GROUP COUNSELING SESSIONS: CSU TRANSFER:
Monday, June 7, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., EOPS Office (open to EOPS students only, call EOPS Office at 818-947-2432 for more information).

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY:
Tuesday, June 8, 4:30 p.m., Monarch Stadium (call Student Services at 818-947-2543 for more information).

Students must sign-up in advance in the Career/Transfer Center in Administration bldg., room 126, or call (818) 947-2646 for more information.

Students Crown Favorite Teacher

■ Valley students vote for their favorite female educator to receive "Woman of the Year Award."

BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR

AWARD WINNER - Jennifer Kelly at the Women in Education Awards.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The votes were tallied and the award goes to … Jennifer Kelly, associate professor of music at Valley. The third annual Women In Education Awards ceremony was held in the Fireside room May 19. The event, sponsored by the Associated Student Union, allows students to vote for their favorite female faculty member, and although there were several strong competitors in the running, Kelly took top honors.

For the full-length version of this story and others, go to www.lavalleystar.com

E-Voting Is on Its Way

■ Recently de-certified machines may be used in November.

BY KRISTEN PRESCOTT
STAFF WRITER

November's presidential election may be decided by glitch-ridden electronic voting systems.

"I do believe touch-screen [voting] machines can be reliable and secure, but the evidence to date suggests they are neither," California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley said during a May 5 Election Assistance Commission hearing to discuss the risks and advantages of electronic voting.

E-voting proponents hail the machines' accessibility to disabled voters and non-English speaking voters, their ability to prevent voters from voting more than once and the reduction in cost of printing multilingual paper ballots. Opponents, meanwhile, cite human error, hackers, the lack of a paper trail and the lack of open software source code as serious concerns.

Recent elections in California, Maryland and Florida were marred by electronic voting machine glitches. Some problems were as basic as machines failing to boot up.

Two weeks ago, Shelley decertified all electronic voting systems in the state, saying that until a long list of requirements is met, electronic voting machines in the state will be banned from use in the November election.

"I'm very confident that all the counties ... will come in [approved for use]," Shelley said in The Los Angeles Times.

Last week, the secretary dismissed a requirement for paper audit trails and suggested that ballots be "imaged and stored electronically," according to The Times.

Shelley also called for a criminal investigation of Diebold Election Systems Inc., manufacturer of one of the decertified machines, for deceptive business practices which led to the installation of touch-screen voting systems that were not tested or approved nationally or in California, according to Reuters.

Diebold has also come under fire for the partisan activities of its CEO, Walden O'Dell, who wrote a 2003 fundraising letter for President Bush, in which he said he is "committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president next year." Democrats have questioned the appropriateness of having a company whose leadership has a definitively partisan agenda controlling an already-controversial voting apparatus.

If an unethical programmer inserts a fraudulent code into a system, election results can be skewed.

The biggest concerns about electronic voting machines are human error and fraud. If a machine is programmed incorrectly, a multitude of problems can arise from votes being cast for the wrong candidate to votes not being counted at all — both of which happened in recent elections in California and Florida respectively.

If an unethical programmer inserts fraudulent code into a system, election results can be skewed.

Open software source code (in other words, putting a system's source code up for public scrutiny) can prevent these problems. It allows multiple experts to examine the code, potentially detecting errors the manufacturer may have missed and fraudulent code.

Diebold refused to allow its source code to be made public, claiming that it is proprietary.

A study conducted by Johns Hopkins University found that "[Diebold's] voting system is far below even the most minimal security standards applicable in other contexts." The study found several problems including "incorrect use of cryptography, vulnerabilities to network threats and poor software development processes." The system is subject to threats from both insiders and outsiders. The study found that voters can cast an unlimited number of votes, votes can be modified and privacy violations can occur such as matching votes to voters.

Voter-verified paper audit trails, which allow a voter to review a paper ballot once it's been cast, offer a way to assure votes are cast as intended. They also offer a way to recount votes.

Diebold, in response to the Johns Hopkins study, claimed that paper audit trails pose the same security risks as computer records. Unscrupulous election officials could "stuff the ballot box" with

please see *E-Voting* page 6

Social Security Numbers No Longer to Be Used for IDs

■ Students will be issued new passwords instead of using social security numbers as identification.

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

A new policy for identification numbers will be implemented at Valley College within the next year. An amendment to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 states that by the 2005 all colleges will have identifier numbers that are not the students' social security numbers - instead they will be assigned a new number.

This policy will alleviate some students' worries about identity theft.

"I don't feel safe using my social security number as my ID number, because anyone can have access to it," said real estate major Waleska Perez.

Dean of Admissions Florentino Manzano explained that students already have the option of asking for an ID number different from their social security number, although most were apparently not aware.

"Students have come and asked us to not use their social security number as their ID number, so we issued them a different number to use," said Manzano. "We have heard of identity theft cases in the office - which didn't necessarily happen at the school - but it happened to the students."

Manzano said that the school's general concern is the privacy of its students. The new law will protect the students' privacy, and the school is moving forward with the district by converting to non-social security numbers as IDs.

Manzano said that students will still need to use their social security numbers for certain purposes on campus, such as financial aid or tax credits.

"Without a student's social security number, they won't receive financial aid or credit for the taxes they file, because if they give out their information and have changed their ID numbers and the numbers don't match then it doesn't work," said Manzano. "Those are the types of things that a student needs their social security number for."

CAMPUS CRIME

Phantom Masturbator Still Haunting Valley

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Elusive Masturbator

A witness reported to Valley College's Sheriff's Department that he saw a male masturbating in the men's bathroom in the business journalism building on May 17 around 11:25 a.m.

The suspect is described as a 6-foot-tall black male with black hair, weighing approximately180 pounds.

According to the Sheriff's department the suspect's description matches two earlier reported incidents. No arrests have been made in the case.

Restraining Order Violation

A female student attending class in the humanities building on May 19 reported to campus police that her ex-boyfriend was outside the building yelling her name.

The female has a restraining order against the suspect stating that he cannot be within 100 yards of her due to a history of violent behavior. The suspect is not a Valley student.

The suspect fled before authorities arrived.

The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with information regarding any of these incidents to please call the department at (818) 947-2911.

Fitness Center Fundraising Drive Continues

■ Athletic department is holding an on-going fundraiser to raise funds for new equipment.

BY JOHANA MAAS
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Fitness Center's fundraising drive, begun last semester, continues. The center is in need of money for supplies and new equipment but, because of department budget cuts, isn't able to get it.

The Fitness Center is in need of such workout essentials as treadmills and stationary bikes and also funds to pay for maintenance. The center's tightened budget has left them unable to get machines to keep it current. The cost of the new equipment the department is raising funds for ranges from $600 to $6,600.

"Equipment gets broken and they can't get it replaced. We have too many broken machines," said Men's P.E. Attendant Tim Knaepen.

Money for the new equipment is not what it's all about for the Fitness Center.

Knaepen said that the first place the school decides to take money from is the Athletics and P.E. departments. According to Knaepen, those are the departments that need help from the budget and from LACCD.

"The school is trying to drop that one unit of taking a P.E. class, and if that were to happen they'd probably close down the Fitness Center and I'd be out of a job," said Knaepen.

Knaepen also said that the department employees are doing everything they can to keep the center and the equipment functional for students.

"Bernie Christian keeps the machines up and going. He spends overtime in here and doesn't get paid for it," said Knaepen.

Christian, director of the Fitness Center, said that it would be a great loss if the P.E. classes were no longer a general requirement for students at Valley.

"It makes it difficult if it's not a requirement. P.E. classes would see a big drop, which might cut back on teachers," said Christian.

Christian said that he doesn't mind staying the extra hours because there are maintenance jobs to do.

"The things in the Fitness Center are expensive. We took a big bite [from the budget], everybody took a big bite, everyone on campus is getting hit hard, except that we're getting hit harder," said Christian.

Donations to the ongoing fundraiser can be made payable to the Patron Association L.A.V.C. and dropped off at the Fitness Center.

Finals Schedule

Tuesday: June 1
Class Schedule: 6:30-7:55; T/Th
Time of Exam: 6:30-8:30

Class Schedule: 9:40-11:05; T/Th
9:40-10:55; T/Th
Time of Exam: 9:30-11:30

Class Schedule:1:00-2:25; T/Th
1:00-2:15;T/Th/F
Time of Exam: 12:30-2:30

Wednesday: June 2
Class Schedule: 8:15-9:25; M/T/W/Th
8:00-9:25; M/W
8:00-9:15; M/W/F
Time of Exam: 8:00-10:00

Class Schedule: 11:20-12:30; M/T/W/Th
11:20-12:45; M/W
11:20-12:35; M/W/F
Time of Exam: 10:30-12:30

Class Schedule: 2:20-3:30; M/T/W/Th
2:40-4:05; M/W

Thursday: June 3
Class Schedule:8:00-9:25; T/Th
8:00-9:15; T/Th/F
Time of Exam: 8:00-10:00

Class Schedule:11:20-12:45; T/Th
11:20-12:35; T/Th/F
Time of Exam: 10:30-12:30

Class Schedule:1:45-3:10; T/Th
1:45-3:00; T/Th/F
Time of Exam: 1:00-3:00

Monday: June 7
Class Schedule: 6:30-7:55; M/W
6:45-7:55; M/T/W/Th
Time of Exam: 6:30-8:30

Class Schedule: 9:40-10:50; M/T/W/Th
9:40-11:05; M/W
9:40-10:55; M/W/F
Time of Exam: 9:30-11:30

Class Schedule: 1:00-2:10; M/T/W/Th
1:00-2:25; M/W
1:00-2:15; M/W/F
Time of Exam:12:30-2:30

VALLEY STAR STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MICHAEL ORDOÑA

MANAGING EDITOR
PHILLIP ROBERTSON

NEWS EDITOR
LAGINA PHILLIPS

OPINION EDITOR
KATHARINE ANDERSON

VALLEY LIFE EDITOR
PETER O'CONNOR

LAYOUT EDITOR
SPORTS EDITOR
BOB TEICHMANN

PHOTO EDITOR
GABY ALONSO

COPY EDITORS
KATHARINE ANDERSON
KATHY ARELLANO
KRISTEN PRESCOTT

CO-LAYOUT EDITOR
KRISTA CARLSON

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST
TIFFANY FARMAKIS

STAFF WRITERS
JACQUI BROWN
TIFFANY FARMAKIS
NAYIBE GULESIAN
SAM HAHN
JOHANA MAAS
SUSAN MALTBY
BOB TEICHMANN

PHOTOGRAPHERS
TAMMY ABBOTT
SALVADOR AGUILAR
DESIREE DELGADO
JORDAN DINAPOLI
JORGE GALLEGOS
SEVAN GHAZARYAN
SCOTT HOWARD
BOB TEICHMANN

ADVERTISING MANAGER
NANCY KENNEDY

ADVISERS
BILL DAUBER
ROD LYONS

TheValleyStar@yahoo.com
www.LAValleyStar.com
(818) 947-2576

The Valley Star is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Valley Glen, CA 91401, (818) 947-2576. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Materials published herein, including any opinions expressed and advertisements should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof. **Editorials** are the opinion of the editorial board only and do not necessarily represent those of the entire staff. **Columns** are the opinion of the writer. **Letters** are the opinions of the reader.

OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

John Kerry for President

■ **The staff of The Valley Star enthusiastically endorses the Massachusetts senator.**

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

November's general election may be the most important of your lifetime.

And make no mistake; this is an election that can be won, and won big, by Sen. John Kerry.

Most major polls show the candidates neck-and-neck despite the Bush campaign's staggering expenditures so far on ads attacking Kerry.

With literally millions of voters just waiting to be engaged — 20 million of them college-age — the president has to be sweating bullets, hoping students don't get off their asses and vote.

Let's look briefly at the Bush presidency, and how it hurts you, the college student.

- Are you old enough to go to war?
- Are you hoping to get a job after college?
- Do you expect to have any assistance at all from Social Security when you retire — or when your parents retire about 20 years from now?
- Do you care about having your medical and academic records open to investigation, even if you haven't been charged with a crime?
- Do you think it's wrong for an administration to trick a country into a long and bloody conflict with no exit strategy and then request billions and billions of dollars for the cause without declaring exactly what the money is for?
- Do you object to the religious beliefs of a draft-dodging, recovering alcoholic having a major impact on civil rights legislation?
- Do you object to the destruction of three decades' worth of Environmental Protection Agency protections?

If you said yes to any of the above, you had damn well better care about doing what you can to effect regime change at home.

In fact, if lying about an extramarital affair was enough to impeach Bill Clinton, what is the appropriate punishment for a president who has misled the nation into a pre-emptive war? As the bumper sticker says, "No one died when Clinton lied."

That being said, The Valley Star's endorsement of John Kerry for president is not purely a vote against the phenomenally crooked and shortsighted machinations of George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Karl Rove and company.

Kerry does have plans for the future of America, and they make far more sense than the no-fun-house mirrors in which the current administration sees the world.

One of the primary problems facing our nation is rampant unemployment. Bush's trickle-down economics have failed to stimulate the economy (although they have certainly succeeded in making the rich richer) and his support for outsourcing of jobs and moving our manufacturing base out of the country have added up to the first net job loss during a presidency since the Great Depression.

Kerry, meanwhile, has proposed creating jobs through a new manufacturing-jobs credit, by investing in new energy industries, restoring technology and stopping layoffs in education, according to the senator's Web site.

And he promises to roll back the wildly inequitable tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans (millionaires get an average cut of $130,783), generating literally billions of dollars to invest in the country, starting with education and health care.

In Iraq, where the administration again paraded its total disconnect from reality, we have been plunged into a disastrous war that we cannot win.

Gen. Joseph P. Hoar, a former commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, recently told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "I believe we are absolutely on the brink of failure."

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA / VALLEY STAR

However, the administration has insisted all along that we essentially go it alone (where is the Coalition of the Willing when you need them?), shunning the United Nations and seeking economic vengeance against nations like France and Germany that had the good sense to protest our unjustified military incursion.

The Bush Administration can't run on the economy (three million jobs lost) and it can't run on the environment or on education, so it is trying desperately to sell itself as the only choice to safeguard America. How many orange alerts does it take to realize that these immoral puppeteers can rule only by fear? Every poll of significance shows that nations around the world despise America's foreign policies, which they view as arrogant and imperialistic. Yet Bush says he'll keep us safe.

Kerry has a long-standing record as a defender of civil rights & the environment.

Only now are the geniuses behind the president leaning toward policies like those long advocated by Kerry, such as making Iraq part of NATO's global mission and having the U.N. Security Council authorize a High Commissioner for Governance and Reconstruction. These ideas are finally sounding acceptable to the administration after the long series of black eyes it has suffered in that nation, including the prisoner abuse scandal, backing the wrong, wrong, wrong horse in Ahmad Chalabi and the ever-rising death toll of Americans and our allies.

Why did it take the administration so long to come around to Kerry's point of view? Perhaps because it has been too busy casting aspersions on the senator's military acumen and leadership.

Please tell me why inveterate draft dodgers like Bush, Rove and Cheney should judge the military record of a repeatedly decorated war hero like Kerry, who displayed perhaps even greater courage after his tour of duty by vocally protesting the war in Vietnam. And now Bush and company say that Kerry's opposition to our policies in Iraq amounts to a "flip-flop."

True, Kerry initially voted for the resolution to go to war, but as he has repeatedly explained, that vote was based on the same faulty information with which the president sold the war to the American people.

And Kerry has never been on board with the incompetent fashion in which the war was prosecuted.

On these issues and on other key points such as health care (where Kerry's plans have drawn strong support from erstwhile rival Howard Dean) and civil rights (where Kerry has been a long-time advocate of gay rights), the Massachusetts senator distinguishes himself from the faux-Texan in the White House.

There is far too much to say about the stark differences between these two candidates for this limited space, but if you want to get more information about where Kerry stands and how he has voted, don't rely on Fox News — find out for yourself by logging on to his official site at www.johnkerry.com or to the nonpartisan sites, www.votesmart.org or www.issues2000.org.

And if you find yourself thinking of him as a "flip-flopper" or unfavorably comparing his military expertise to that of dress-up pilot Bush, then you have been victimized by the $210 million in advertising that the Republicans have to spend on tainting your views.

Besides, since when is the ability to change one's mind a bad thing? Isn't it the pigheaded arrogance of our less-than-critically thinking president that got us into this massive dung heap in the first place?

But don't believe us. Don't believe Fox. Believe the facts.

Believe that this election is going to have long-lasting effects on you, your family, your country and the rest of the world.

Vote for John Kerry for president.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Perspective Needed in ASU Election

Having read and reread all of the letters regarding the ASU elections, I must say that passions have risen to an unnecessarily heated level.

First, wild accusations that Ms. Van's letter was racist are preposterous and these people should reconsider that part of their argument. It is not racist for Armenians to vote for Levon because he is an Armenian, for anyone has the prerogative to vote for a candidate that they feel would best represent them.

A second claim that has no merit is that Ms. Van is accusing an entire ethnic population of ignorance and inability to make a fair judgment. Did she say that? Not even close.

The margin of victory was so slim that any major voting block could've tipped the election to either side. Kagan had his base; Levon had his.

So the issue becomes about the criteria that each voter used to make their decision. I feel the majority of voters did not use the same criteria as I did as evidenced by the outcome.

I based my decision on who [I thought was] the most qualified for the job. [My candidate] works the hardest at this school , has the most involvement on campus, has the most knowledge about the issues that affect this school, has the ability to work through the bureaucracy to get a task accomplished .

Anyone can run, even if they are not qualified or even if they don't care what others think, but that doesn't mean they should run. In my opinion, there are several individuals that exhibit the qualities I've listed to a greater extent than Levon.

If other individuals ran, whose votes do you think they would steal? If I had run, for instance, I would have definitely been last in the plurality. I would have taken Igor's votes because his base is obtainable to me, but not Levon's votes because his base is not - just like it was Democrats voting for Nader that lost the election for Gore.

If another Armenian had run, Igor would have won unless Armenians purposely picked one Armenian to vote for - there is no question about this. That is why Mayor Riordan lost the Republican gubernatorial primary leading to the Davis win and subsequent ousting.

I know both candidates and have worked with them closely and have qualified my criteria carefully so nothing I've written should be construed as disparaging to Levon. If he works hard, his learning curve will be short and painless to the rest of us on the board. He has the opportunity to be the best ASU president yet.

I will do everything in my power to assist Levon next year because this school and student body deserves nothing less.

RON CABRERA, JR.
COMMISSIONER ETHNIC AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Disabled Access Not Just an Option, but a Right

To the Editor:

A Disabled Student Programs and Services student who uses a wheelchair told me today that he received a $250 scholarship from the Patron's Association at the May 13 award ceremony.

Although he was very pleased about the award, he was unable to receive it in the same manner as the other individuals who were awarded scholarships.

They received theirs on the Monarch Hall stage. He received his handed down from the stage where he had been told he would be receiving it because "there is no ramp to the stage."

The college has a portable wheelchair lift that is regularly used for wheelchair access to the Monarch Hall stage.

This is 2004. The Americans with Disabilities Act, which ensured the civil rights of individuals with disabilities was enacted in 1990.

And last week, a landmark 5-4 decision was made by the United States Supreme Court, upholding a key provision of the ADA and siding with an individual with paraplegia who sued the state of Tennessee after he was forced to drag himself up the steps of a courthouse that didn't have elevators or ramps.

The ruling upholds Title II of the ADA, which requires that state and local governments provide equal access to services for individuals with disabilities.

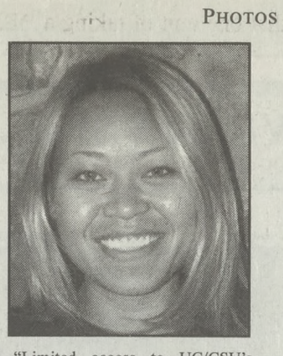
I am writing this letter only because I think it is essential that accessibility awareness be practiced by everyone on this campus so that our students with disabilities can be provided access to all educational activities as is, according to national and state law, their civil right.

KATHLEEN SULLIVAN, PH.D.
COORDINATOR, DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, LAVC

Campus View

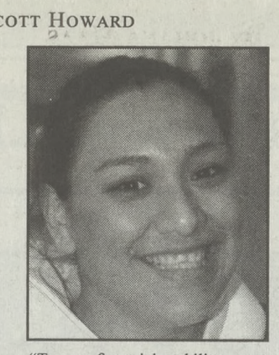
What are the most important issues facing college students today?

PHOTOS BY SCOTT HOWARD



"Limited access to UC/CSU's translates to overcrowded classrooms at community colleges, thus causing longer transfer completion times."

-Daly Sorvongsavanh

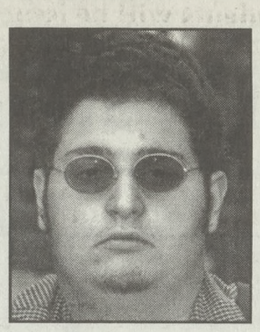


"To me, financial stability, or at least income, is what worrries me most about going to college. Money is what makes the world go round."

- Denise Mendez

"Security is an issue on campus because of the large influx of students an the lack of security personnel to maintain safety."

- Marleny Rodriguez



"It's really hard for students to hold a job and be full-time students at the same time"

- Michael Mirnoff

ALL THE NEWS THAT GIVES US FITS

Lies My Government Told Me

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON
OPINION EDITOR

Approval ratings for the Bush Administration dropped sharply as graphic details of the prisoner abuse scandal emerged, showing United States soldiers involved in the torture and sexual assault of Iraqi detainees.

Amidst accusations that he was aware of the abuse, Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld, did not condemn the torture - although he did deny knowledge. In response, he issued a ban on "all digital cameras, camcorders and mobile phones with cameras" on U.S. military bases in Iraq.

He would rather corral camera phones than address human rights concerns.

How very hawkish.

The Department of Defense's official count of "U.S. soldier fatalities" in Iraq raises ethical issues about the counting procedure. The numbers are divided into so many categories that they become too convoluted to determine the actual American loss. Fatalities counted are soldiers "killed in combat." This leaves questions about the roughly 2,750 U.S. troops "wounded in combat, not returned to duty in 72 hours."

So exactly how many, if any, deaths of our soldiers have happened in hospitals?

Will they ever tell us? Or will it emerge 50 years from now as a blacked-out number in a classified document?

Rumors are that the total number of U.S. soldiers who have died in Iraq is significantly higher than the Department of Defense previously released. In a war with dwindling supporters, public knowledge of the full count of U.S. soldier causalities could do substantial damage to public opinion of the war effort – and to Bush's popularity.

The administration won't stand for that, will it?

Rumors are that U.S. casualties are much higher than announced.

The House Committee on Government Reform Special Investigations Division released for public review a document: "Iraq on the record - The Bush Administration's Public Statements on Iraq." This 36-page report contains only statements which can be proved with absolute certainty to be instances of the Bush Administration knowingly misleading the American public.

Why? To gain the American public's approval and raise support for his plans of an invasion of Iraq.

"Because of the gravity of the subject and the president's unique access to classified information, members of Congress and the public expect the president and his senior officials to take special care to be balanced and accurate in describing national security threats. It does not appear, however, that President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Secretary Rumsfeld, Secretary Powell, and National Security Advisor Rice met this standard in the case of Iraq. To the contrary, these five officials repeatedly made misleading statements about the threat posed by Iraq. In 125 separate appearances, they made 11 misleading statements about the urgency of Iraq's threat, 81 misleading statements about Iraq's nuclear activities, 84 misleading statements about Iraq's chemical and biological capabilities, and 61 misleading statements about Iraq's relationship with al Qaeda," the report concluded.

When we have our young men and women dying in a war seemingly motivated by greed and the ability to provide defense contracts for a company in which daddy is a Chairman and financial gain is certain, special attention to detail and diligence to reveal the truth must be a priority above all else.

Younger generation voters who stay informed and refuse to play party to the lies of the Bush regime could be the deciding factor in the November elections.

Without a doubt, Bush is an embarrassment to himself, the Republican Party and the United States of America.

'Rose'

continued from page 1

ambulance she vaguely remembers asking the paramedics if they could save her leg "because I'm a tour bus driver."

That's the last thing she remembers.

After three weeks in a coma at Cedars Sinai hospital, where she underwent 27 blood transfusions and numerous surgeries to save her arm and repair the damage, she was moved to Kaiser on June 2, 2002. There, she was put into a drug-induced coma for five more days to allow doctors to perform several more surgeries and skin grafts. Four different times, doctors expected the worst and advised her family to prepare for a funeral, but Rose surprised everyone by the speed at which she healed. They called her a miracle.

The transportation company Rose was driving for at the time of her accident cut off her health insurance two weeks after the accident, while she was still in a coma.

She was transferred to County Villa Sheraton, a skilled nursing home in North Hills, on June 20, 2002 and was released August 19.

"Up until recently, I thought that Kaiser had covered the three months I was hospitalized but now I'm getting the bills," Rose said. "Saving my life totaled more than $538,000."

Rose contacted Victims Of Crime shortly after the accident to see if they could help her recover lost wages and out-of-pocket expenses but only recently heard from them. Her claim specialist said she should receive a check at the beginning of May but she has yet to receive any compensation.

Fran Clader, a spokeswoman for VOC in Sacramento would not comment directly on Rose's claim but said, "We try to deal with each claim expeditiously. Once the victim is deemed eligible, we receive the bills and determine what the reimbursement would be. Sometimes it takes longer to get everything we need to process a claim."

The fight to reclaim her life has meant battling a system that, in Rose's words, "lumps everyone into one category and assumes that every case is out to abuse the system."

"When all these institutions should have provided some sort of security, they proved the opposite," Rose said. "I had to fight Social Security and finally got disability but was cut off eight months after my accident."

Social Security kept denying her, saying that she could get a prosthetic and walk again. But with no health insurance and no income, it was a forgone conclusion that she would not be able to afford it. So Rose hired a lawyer.

"When the judge looked at the pictures from the accident he said, 'you're definitely disabled, Miss Rose.' Social Security reinstated my disability but that will end in June of this year," Rose said.

Meanwhile Medi-Cal sent her a denial notice on March 11, 2004, stating that her condition "does not meet the definition of medical necessity for an electric wheelchair."

"Someone gave me a manual wheelchair and I used that for quite a while," Rose said. "It took forever to get anywhere because my arm had been so damaged in the accident. Because the music building is uphill I used to have to turn my chair backwards and push myself with my one leg."

Her doctor prescribed an electric wheelchair and she has been using a loaner from Sarah Medical Equipment in Santa Monica. For her part, Rose has embarked on a campaign to enlighten those who set these policies.

"The humiliation one must suffer again and again, after submitting to painful doctor's examinations and emotional evaluations only to be denied or put back into the appeal process serves no one," Rose said. "I can only assume that these bureaucrats are putting us through the hoops in hopes that we will eventually give up on what is rightfully ours."

Several prominent politicians, including County Board of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Sen. Diane Feinstein, Sen. Barbara Boxer, State Sen. Richard Alarcon, Rep. Howard Berman and Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn have been sent a packet from Rose containing the CHP accident report, denial letters, photos of herself after the accident and a passionate letter asking for help.

Yaroslavsky, Boxer and Alarcon have recently responded to Rose but have no immediate plan of action.

Rose's life has hardly stood still in the meantime. On May 15, 2004, she married Akili Mims, the man who inspired her to continue her pursuit to become a teacher in spite of the obstacles she's faced.

"He's the reason I'm here," Rose said. "He encourages me to go for my dreams, and that's what I'm doing."

"There's an old saying I heard somewhere. Everybody put all your problems and troubles into a bag and hang them outside. Go around and look inside of all the others and choose one. They say you always come back to yours because yours seems so much less than everyone else's."

For the full-length version of this story and others, go to www.lavalleystar.com

'Cancer'

continued from page 1

avoid excessive exposure. The ultra violet rays in sunlight damage the skin and cause premature aging and wrinkling.

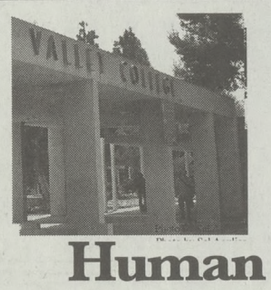
Healthy skin cells grow in an orderly fashion to replace dead cells and produce new skin. Abnormal cells can grow out of control and form a tumor. This tumor is considered benign if it is limited to a few cell layers and does not invade neighboring tissues or organs. If the tumor spreads to surrounding tissues, it is considered cancerous. Cancer cells crowd out and destroy nearby healthy cells, forming malignant tumors.

Minimal effort and basic care can lead to the lifelong protection of your skin. Childhood skin care is a must because most people receive 50 percent of their sun exposure before the age of 18.

Practical measures include staying out of the sun between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., when the sun's rays are strongest. Many people overlook the danger of reflected sunlight, which does nearly as much damage as direct sunlight.

Stay cool, comfortable and protected by wearing tightly knit clothing and long-sleeved garments made from light fabric.

Wear sunscreen, which provides a broad spectrum of protection against the sun and can be purchased almost anywhere.



Los Angeles Valley College
EXTENSION

Human Resource Assistant Academy
Fall classes begin
September 9, 2004
818.947.2320

Human Resource Assistant Academy

Core Program Content:

- Intro to H.R.Management
- Business Communications
- Violence in the Workplace
- Diversity in the Workplace
- Training & Development
- Compensation & Benefits
- Workplace Survival Skills
- Sexual Harassment Issues
- OSHA Safety Training

and many, many more!
Become an integral part of a Human Resource Management team by enrolling in the Human Resource Assistant Academy

Tuition: $835 if paid in full.
No additional books to buy!
Easy Payment Plan: $900. Requires a $255 deposit. Payments will be $215 per month for 3 months.
Start Date: September 9, 2004
Class size limited to 25 students

Telephone: 818-947-2320,
or e-mail: goldmaa@lavc.edu
FOR APPLICATION AND INFO. PACKET

LA VC

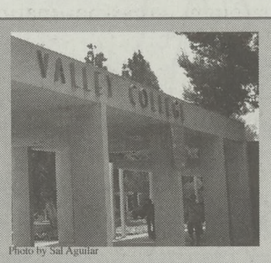


Photo by Sal Aguilar

Los Angeles Valley College
EXTENSION

Professional Paralegal Academy
Fall classes begin
September 13, 2004
818.947.2320

Professional Paralegal Academy

EXCEEDS the state of California requirement for paralegal education (Business & Professions code S6450)

- ***EASY*** Student Payment Plan • Just a $1600 deposit!
- Complete in less than 1-year • 400 training hours
- Receive ***TWO*** Certificates of completion
- ***NEW*** Practicum Level component
- Lifetime Career Develpment Assistance

Top Salaries
Exciting Workplace Environment
Career Independence
Lifetime Skills

Convenient
Evening & Saturday Schedule

Class meets off-campus at Pepperdine University Center in Encino

Telephone:818.947.2320
or email:goldmaa@LAVC.edu
FOR APPLICATION & INFO PACKET

LA VC

Visit The Valley Star's online sponsors at www.lavalleystar.com/sponsors

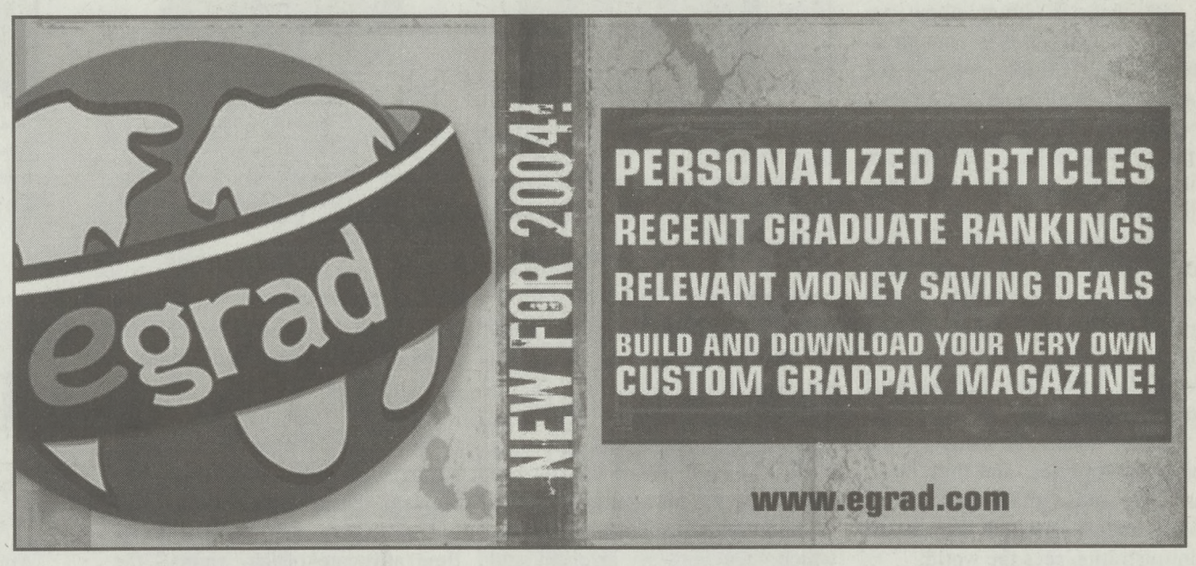
SIGN UP NOW FOR NETZERO INTERNET SERVICE AND GET YOUR FIRST MONTH **FREE!***

NETZERO PLATINUM
$9.95* a month

NETZERO HiSpeed
$14.95* a month

Get it today at **www.netzero.com/school** or call **1-877-638-9376**

* Additional phone and live technical support charges may apply even during any free or trial periods. Savings amounts based on standard monthly rates as of 02/01/04.



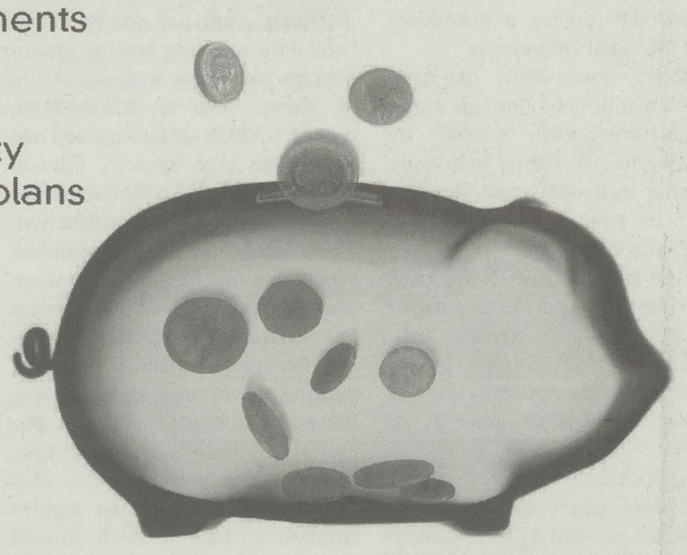
Search for jobs and internships

GO

Visit our career channel

Save money through loan consolidation!

- Reduce monthly paments by as much as 50%
- Choose from a variety of flexible payment plans
- Lock in a low, fixed interest rate



STUDENT LOAN CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM

1-866-311-8076
www.slcp.com

'GM Foods'

continued from page 1

than ever before. This runs parallel with increased pesticide use. This is happening at extreme human and environmental costs.

Crop losses from insect pests can be staggering, resulting in devastating financial loss for farmers and starvation in developing countries. Farmers typically use many tons of chemical pesticides annually.

Plants genetically engineered to be resistant to one very powerful herbicide could help prevent environmental damage by reducing the amount of herbicides needed. For example, Monsanto, a leader in GM foods, created a strain of soybeans that has been genetically modified to not be affected by the company's popular herbicide Roundup. These soybeans only require one application of weed-killer instead of multiple applications, reducing production cost and limiting the dangers of agricultural waste run-off.

However, each year in California, millions of pounds of pesticides are applied to crops, soil and water. Traces of pesticides were discovered in more than three-quarters of bread analyzed in a study by the Pesticide Residues Committee (PRC).

Some counties in the state are taking steps toward GMO-free crops. Mendocino County in northern California banned genetically modified crops in March and since then almost one-fifth of the state's 58 counties are considering bans.

"Passage of Measure H is just the beginning. We're the first county, but the revolution is just starting," said Els Cooperrider, owner of a Ukiah organic brew pub who spearheaded the campaign in a public statement.

Mendocino's Measure H, dubbed the "H-Bomb," was approved by 57 percent of voters despite the biotech industry's $700,000 campaign against the measure. The ban is the first voter-sanctioned ban on bioengineered crops in the country. Santa Barbara, Contra Costa and Marin counties have begun taking similar initiative by gathering signatures or working on campaigns.

Monsanto argues that extensive federal regulation ensures the safety of genetically altered crops.

"Beneficial agricultural products developed using our patented technology are important to farmers and other companies engaged in the improvement of corn and cotton crops, and Monsanto has a well-established track record of broadly licensing our technologies to other seed companies," Robert T. Fraley, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief technology officer for Monsanto, said in a press release.

Some consumers don't want to eat food that has been treated with pesticides because of potential health hazards, and run-off of agricultural wastes from excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers can poison the water supply and cause harm to the environment. Growing GM foods such as Bt corn can help eliminate the application of chemical pesticides and reduce the cost of bringing a crop to market.

Crop varieties developed by genetic engineering were first introduced for commercial production in 1996. Today, these crops are planted on more than 145 million acres worldwide. American farmers are by far the largest producers of GM crops.

D'Arrigo Bros., one of the state's leading lettuce growers, uses a "seed enhancer" on its lettuce seeds. Enhanced seeds are treated with chemicals to make them germinate more readily and they are coated with a clayish jacket of chemical compounds to make them less appetizing to worms and easier to plant. That is the first of many experiences lettuce has with chemicals from seed to plate.

Alejandro Garcia, a field worker for D'Arrigo Bros., says that the lettuce is not all that is exposed to hazardous chemicals in the farming process.

"You get home, and all you want to do is rest," said Garcia in a recent LA Weekly interview. "This year, I don't know why, but I've been coming out real tired. Maybe it's my body telling me I've gotta find another job."

Pesticides are specifically designed to kill living things. A report by the General Accounting Office cites an EPA estimate of the number of physician-diagnosed case of pesticide poisoning at 10,000 to 20,000 per year. The report also says, "EPA recognize(s) that its estimate represents serious under-reporting... comprehensive information on the occurrence of acute pesticide exposure does not exist – whether for farm workers, farm children, or the population in general."

The general public is also at risk. Pesticides drift in the breeze, trickle into groundwater, float off into surface water, and stick onto the plants on which they were sprayed.

In 1999, 21 people were hospitalized after fumes of metam-sodium, a pre-planting fumigant used to kill weeds and nematodes, drifted from a potato field into the California town of Earlimart. Those hospitalized suffered from vomiting and rashes.

Genetically Modified Organisms also can have a life of their own.

Through cross-pollination, GMOs can irreversibly contaminate native plants and trees. The pollen from GM plants can be carried either by the wind or insects while GM seeds can be transported by birds, animals or humans. The genetic contamination may lead to the development of super-weeds and disrupt important ecosystems.

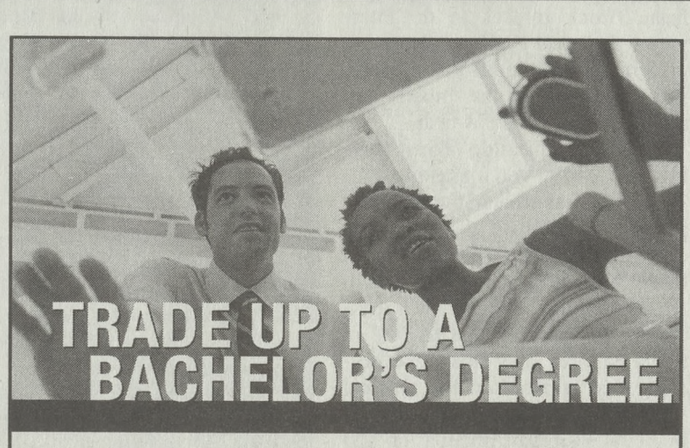
"It would virtually wipe out any diversity of crop types and would further reduce the natural diversity of plants and animals on which the few remaining traditional peoples survive," according to the Genetic Food Alert.

Some argue it may be virtually impossible for any agricultural area to remain completely

please see *GM Foods* page 8

Certified Swim Instructors/Lifeguards wanted
for summer camp program.
FT/PT hours avail.
Simi Valley & Sherman Oaks locations.
Great Starting Salary!
Call (818) 363-0221
or e-mail: aquaticsafetyinstruction@msn.com

Looking for a summer job?
Kimco has openings in the following areas:
—*Receptionist*
—*Data Entry*
—*General Clerical*
—*Administrative*
—*Warehouse*
Earn from $7.00-12.00/hour, weekly pay!
We have Temporary and Career opportunities with great local companies!
(Must be at least 18 years old to apply)
CALL TODAY!
1-800-649-JOBS
www.kimco.com
Kimco office pros • industrial staffing



Take your Associate Degree to the next level with a Bachelor's Degree from DeVry University. Our business and technology programs fit your schedule with classes offered days, nights and weekends - onsite and online. With convenient locations near where you live or work, you can take advantage of our year-round programs. Our fast and flexible schedules allow you to earn a Bachelor's Degree on your terms. Then add to it with a Master's Degree from our Keller Graduate School of Management. Either way, you'll be on your way to a career that takes you to the top.
Call 866-863-7810
for more information about the locations listed below.
Irvine Long Beach Pomona West Hills
Or, e-mail us at transfer@devry.edu
© 2004 DeVry University. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association (NCA), 30 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60602. ncahigherlearningcommission.org
DeVry University
YOUR BEST CAREER MOVE℠
www.devry.edu

MARY KAY SKIN CARE
and Cosmetics
Are you interested in trying the wonderful procucts of Mary Kay ?
You can reach me, a new May Kay Consultant, by calling
310-672-9627
or e-mail:
www.MARYKAY.COM/MMSMITH13

$ Excellent part time job!!
Set appointments for a Mortgage Co.
Hours: 5 - 9 PM (M.-Th.)
10 AM - 2 PM Saturday
$ Call today (818) 778-6400

SUMMER JOBS
GET PAID EXPERIENCE
Attention students or recent graduates.
Short & long term assignments available for Receptionists, File Clerks, Administrative Assistants, Customer Service and more.
Please call either office
Burbank (818) 954-8224
Woodland Hills (818) 703-8487
Barrington Staffing Services

Cust. Serv/Sales
$400-$1000
salary+comm.
Dalily cash bonuses
Great hrs. F/T or P/T
Prof. high energy atmosphere
Enthusiastic/motivated people only
Call 818-989-1456

"EARN EXTRA $$$"
for your opinion
on TV & Product evaluations for market research purposes.
Brenda's Recruiting Services, Inc.
818-759-8021

DUMP USED OIL AND WE ALL GET SOAKED.

If you change your own oil, dispose of your used oil safely by recycling it at a convenient collection center, including most auto parts stores and gas stations. Call (888) CLEAN LA for the location of the center nearest you. Because changing your own oil may save you a little money, but recycling it saves a lot more.

(888) CLEAN LA

A message from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works. Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.
As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.
RECICLE ACEITE USADO

Rock Is Back

■ Better bands and finer sounds make for a comeback in rock that is greatly needed and sure to stay.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

With the RIAA taking action against illegal downloading and artistic quality at an ebb, 2003 was a disastrous time for music. A few albums deserved praise but were nowhere near enough to assuage the lack of aural bliss.

Music fans are celebrating a better start in 2004, with such promising new acts as Franz Ferdinand and The Beta Band and fresh releases from old favorites like Eric Clapton and Prince. An abundance of summer tours is sure to keep attracting listeners to the consistency of accomplished artists who are a cut above the commercial refuse we studiously avoided last year.

Some bands that were so cool because only you and a few of your friends listened to them are finally breaking into the music scene with sold-out venues and loyal listeners. The deterioration of pop music seemed to force listeners to pass on the sounds considered so sacred.

We understood that something needed to be done; we shared a higher quality of music with everyone we could. As a result, bands who once played hole-in-the-wall bars and worked their way up to a big show at The Roxy or The Troubadour are now packing them in for multiple shows at The Wiltern and The Glass House.

About 10 years ago, El Paso, Texas gave us At The Drive In, a group that never dominated charts or gained much airplay but had a strong fan base. Minor successes kept Drive In's name afloat for years and were favorites among the DJ scene. Since then, At The Drive In has split into Sparta and The Mars Volta. These two bands labored in obscurity for years as they rose from the ashes of their Texas past. The two now tour the country and take part in festivals like Glastonbury and Coachella.

A year ago, "alternative" bands like these were still struggling to get tickets sold and their song played on radio stations. Now, Modest Mouse and Dios seem to be everywhere, without compromising their artistic vision. Many continue to avoid the fame-and-PR machine.

Modest Mouse lead singer Isaac Brock refuses to do interviews and won't talk to reporters, preferring that the fans and media simply listen to the music and accept it for what it's worth.

Is this being rude or just staying true to why you make music?

As we approach the halfway point in the music year, we can only hope that listeners keep up on music knowledge and stay open to what is coming through the speakers. Radio stations like KCRW in Santa Monica play host to everything that appears on the musical terrain. Expand your horizons and make a visit to Amoeba or CD Trader and don't be afraid to ask what is playing. No longer should you have to listen to the same disc over and over because there is nothing out there that sparks interest. It's time to give music another chance.

For reviews and suggestions on the newest CDs to date please see box to the right...

SOON TO BE CLASSICS

2004 continues to bring new music, setting new standards for upcoming bands and forcing bands to release promising CDs.

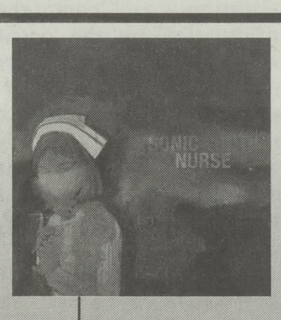
Ozomatli
"Street Signs"
Concord Records
June 22, 2004

Ozomatli came together when local LA hip hop and latino artists brought soul, funk and dance to a new frontier. Since 1995 these boys have been moving crowds with their crazy concert entrances and wild stage presence.

The upcoming album 'Street Signs' will be released next month but Ozo plays numerous unannounced shows throughout the Los Angeles music scene.

"Love and Hope" along with "Who Discovered America" are receiving plenty of airplay and prove to be another hit album.

Check out Jurassic 5 and Quannum Projects if you like the sounds of Ozomatli.



Sonic Youth
"Sonic Nurse"
Geffen Records
June 8, 2004

The new single off a 'Sonic Nurse' is the only reason you need to wake up early and get the new Sonic Youth album when it comes out in two weeks.

The track "Unmade Bed" continues to show why these rock icons are continually loved by their fans and only continue to gather new listeners each day.

If you didnt get a chance to see them last year at Groening's ATP Festival you can catch them all summer as they headline music festivals all over the world, including a Lollapolooza stop here in July.

This underground rock bands from the 80s is back.

DJ Danger Mouse
"Grey Album"
Not to be Released

When you take Jay-Z's 'Black Album' release from 2003 and The Beattles 1968 release of the 'White Album,' you would naturally be left with the 'Grey Album.'

People are searching left and right for the lyrics of one Shawn Carter as DJ Dangermouse takes matters into his own hands and mixes them up with the music of John, Paul, Ringo and George.

The 'Grey Album' cannot be found unless your friend happenes to be one of the 1000 lucky people who snagged a copy before EMI pulled the album. In response many websites have offered full album downloads for free.

Franz Ferdinand
"Franz Ferdinand"
Sony Music
April 20, 2004

The first album of 2004 to really take over has to be the self-titled release by Franz Ferdinand.

Glasgow, Scotland has produced one of the UK's hottest bands as they continue to tear through the United States and reel fans in.

With a sound that sounds even better live with their tight back beat and catchy tunes, Franz Ferdinand is band listners appreciate.

Bringing rock back to what it used to be with a jamming, punky-electro sound crossed with engaging vocals from lead singer Alex Kapranos make Ferdinand and automatic favorite for the msuic scene in 2004.

Glastonbury Festival
Vale of Avalon
June 25-27

MUSE
The White Stripes
Oasis

"Working" Caps Off Semester

■ A musical with more than 25 song has the Valley Theater Department "Working" as the year ends.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

A play based on the book of interviews with American Workers by Studs Terkel, 'Working' takes the points of view from 26 workers and welds them together to form a musical about wishful thinking. Pete Parkin and the Valley College Theatre Department presented the Stephen Schwartz adaptation of 'Working' to a mixed crowd Saturday night in the Horseshoe Theater.

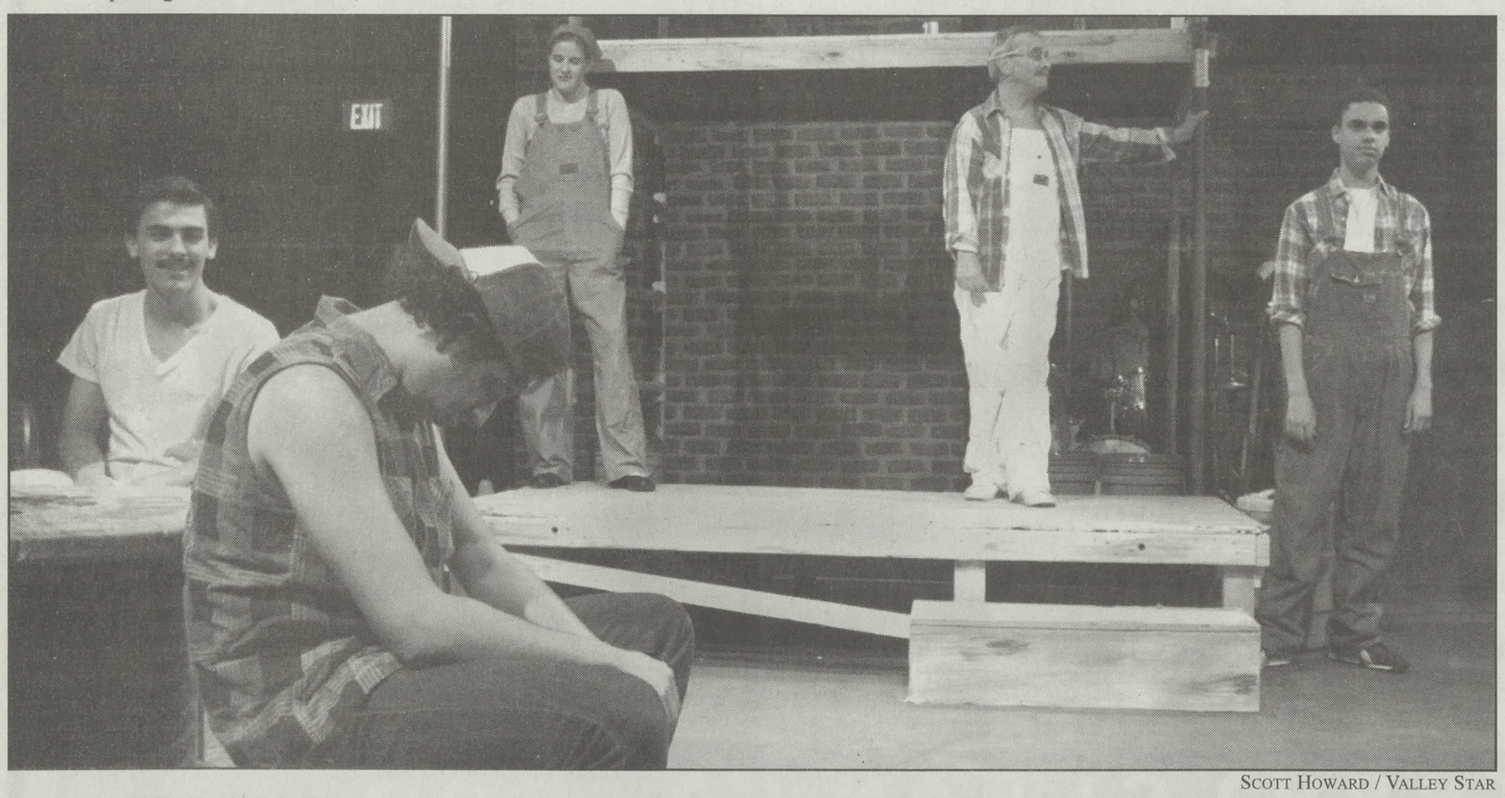
An opening from Alec Ledd, took a direction that no audience should have to steer. Corny antics and poor standup had the guests wondering when the show would begin. The cast shortly followed as a group of everyday Americans, including an ironworker, schoolteacher, migrant worker, hooker and a housewife.

The mob left the stage after an opening cast song and left ironworker Mike Dillard, played by David Damiani. Damiani knows what it's like to work as he attends Valley to avert his student loan collection agency. At the end of each song the worker would exit as a new one came on stage. A short introduction of their characters followed by a song seemed to be the procedure. Valley native Jessica Raymond entertained the crowd with her spunky energy and melodious voice, something that wasn't consistent for the rest. Her role as a supermarket checker and a political fundraiser were dynamic as she brought a unique life to both of them. Vincent Perez played a migrant worker and box boy singing a beautiful piece in Spanish. A full cast song ended the first act.

Part two seemed to adopt the first acts habits as we just moved into more workers, with a stone mason, interstate trucker, fireman and ex-copy boy. A splendid performance from cast members Julia Goretsky playing a waitress and Don Frabotta as a retired man seemed to have the second act move more smoothly.

The band provided clean crisp sounds allowing the singers room for error and made for a wonderful soundtrack to the Valley actors pleasing performance.

"Working" will continue this weekend in the Horseshoe Theater at 8 p.m. Admission is $8.



SCOTT HOWARD / VALLEY STAR

NEVER A BREAK - Alex Ledd and his cast members sing together on stage in Valley College's last production of the semester, "Working."

WEEN
Bonnaroo Festival 2004
Manchester, TN
June 11-13
The Dead
Dave Matthews

Media Arts to Show Their Award Winning Film

■ National award-winning 29-minute documentary to be shown for free at Mainstage Theater June 12.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Professor Joseph Daccurso and his Media Arts Department will be having it's Annual Public Screening of Student Films and Digital Video Projects from their work in the past year.

The Mainstage Theater event will take place Saturday, June 12, 2004 at 7 p.m. and will include the award-winning Alcohol and Drug Treatment advocacy documentary, "In Their Own Words."

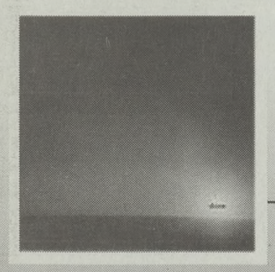
The 29-minute documentary has won multiple national awards this year, including three Telly Awards, three Video graphic Awards, and a Communicator Award. All of the awards come for outstanding documentary, informational, public relations, and motivational film categories.

Daccurso and the Valley College Film Department continue to be on of the best kept secrets in town.

Free Public Screening
June 12, 2004
7 p.m.
Mainstage Theater

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY, MAY 26	THURSDAY, MAY 27	FRIDAY, MAY 28	SATURDAY, MAY 29	SUNDAY, MAY 30	M
	No Events Scheduled	Madonna The Forum, Inglewood $90-300 8 p.m.	Primus Irvine Meadows $22-37 8 p.m.	Primus Irvine Meadows $22-37 8 p.m.	Dave Chappelle Agoura Hills $35 8 p.m.	U R $ 8

MUSIC 2004



Dios

"Dios"
Star Time Records
March 23, 2004

Hawthorne, CA band DIOS has strange stories to tell about their first days with drugs and coming together casually and enexpectedly to dominate the southland with their self-titled debut.

Funny guys always looking to kid around and have a good laugh put their game faces on when they hit the stage and play a tighly sounding set.

Fresh off their opening day Coachella performance, Dios is on a US tour as they prepare to head overseas in attempt to give the UK what they have been giving us this past year, good music.

They simply consider themsleves, 'A band from Hawthorne.'

Zero7

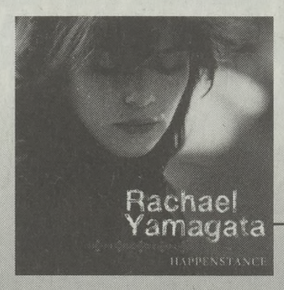
"When It Falls"
Elektra / Asylum
March 2, 2004

When the chance to remix college buddy Nigel Godrich's produced 'OK Computer' track "Climbing Up the Walls," Zero 7 had no idea that the success of remixing a Radiohead track would lead them to play some of the world's biggest music festivals and sell out shows weeks in advance.

London lads Henry Binns and Sam Hardaker have added the vocal chemistry of the sexy Sia and the seducing Sophie.

'When It Falls' will only have to hold you over until fall as the quartet has found enough studio time for their November 5 release of 'In The Waiting Line.'

Zero 7 is at the Ford Amphitheater June 4/6.



Rachael Yamagata

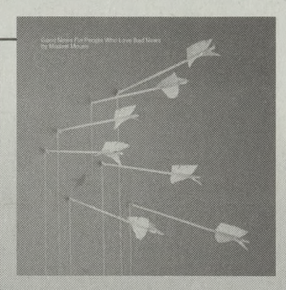
"Happenstance"
RCA Records
June 8, 2004

A father of Japanese decent and a mother of German and Italian ancestry are reason to explain for the exotic beauty that Rachael Yamagata adds to her Virginia girl voice.

The East Coast native started composing songs at the 14 and now at 26 has already played Madison Square Garden and has opened for major acts like David Grey and Gomez.

Yamagata delivers a soft and soothing similar to those of James Taylor and Carol King, her musical inspirations.

Currently on Tour, Yamagata hopes to bring the vibrant music scene that once existed in the Windy City.



Modest Mouse

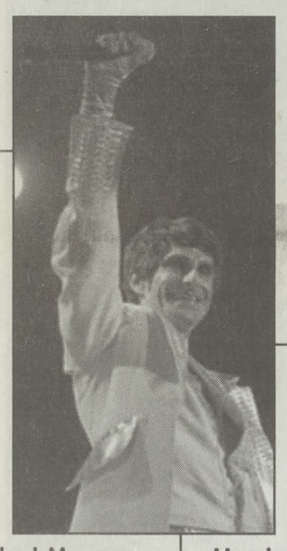
"Good News For People Who Love Bad News"
Sony Music
April 6, 2004

It's hard to see these guys make their way to the top, but their poppy alternative-rock and country combination has the curiousity of many new listeners.

Harsh words transformed into beautiful songs are no longer the case for singer/songwriter Isaac Brock.

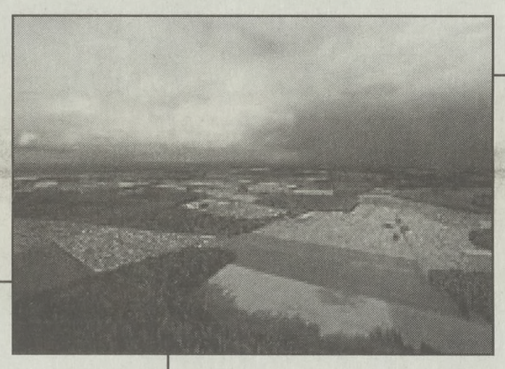
A happier trailer-trash foursome from Issaquah, WA enjoy their flannel shirts, twangy tunes and tricks on the tremelo that suck you into their unique brand of music.

Isaac and company are climbing to the top of the college charts with 'Good News For People Who Love Bad News,' with great success from the single, "Float On."



Modest Mouse — Morrissey

Lollapalooza
Seaside Park Ventura
July 22-23



Hurricane Festival
Scheebel, Germany
June 25-27

Wilco

The Cure

Pixies

Bumbershoot
The Seattle Arts
and Music Festival
Seattle, WA
September 3-6

Music Heat Wave Warms Up

■ Music festivals kick off the sumer concert season next week.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

As some of you head into summer looking to take more classes or work full time, the rest of us will be enjoying our break and all the music that comes with it.

With festivals like Lollapalooza and Bumbershoot topping the west coast fan choice, a few national and international gatherings are sure to be the seasons best.

Oasis and The White Stripes are headlining the Glastonbury Music Festival at the Vale of Avalon in the UK. It is the world's largest greenfield music and performing arts festival in the world.

The Pixies are making a few choice Lollapalooza appearances, including the Ventura show and Bumbershoot.

The Bonnaroo Festival in Tennessee brings the best rock, folk and country music acts together to play for three days on the 600-acre farm south of Nashville.

The Hurricane Festival in Scheebel brings the best names in Indie-rock together for a weekend of camping and exploring along the German countryside. Acts like Franz Ferdinand and Modest Mouse.

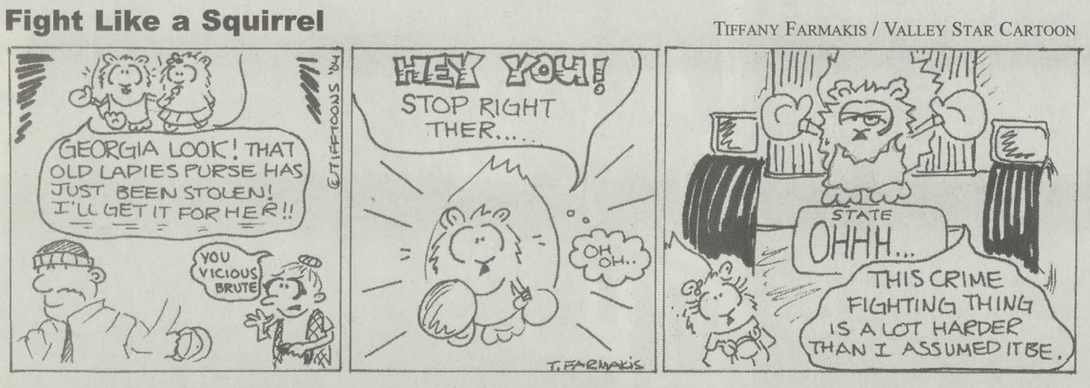
Traveling around this summer may seem like a hefty chunk of change out your budget, but carpooling and road tripping makes for a great adventure and wonderful stories to head back to school with in the fall.

Each festival has it's own website packed full of travel and ticket information. *see following:*

www.bonnaroo.com
www.bumbershoot.com
www.lollapalooza.com
www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk
www.hurricane.de

Fight Like a Squirrel

TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR CARTOON


GEORGIA LOOK! THAT OLD LADIES PURSE HAS JUST BEEN STOLEN! I'LL GET IT FOR HER!!
YOU VICIOUS BRUTE
HEY YOU! STOP RIGHT THER.....
OH OH..
T.FARMAKIS
STATE
OHHH...
THIS CRIME FIGHTING THING IS A LOT HARDER THAN I ASSUMED IT BE.

MONDAY, MAY 31

UCLA Jazz and
Reggae Festival
$15
8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

Yo La Tengo
Henry Fonda Theatre
$15
8 p.m.

***EDITOR'S PICK**

The Hoboken, NJ
trio plays the intimate
venue for their only LA
appearance this summer.

FILM REVIEW

Even Happier Ever After

■ "Shrek 2" lives up to the original.

"Shrek 2"
Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy
Dir.: Andrew Adamson,
Kelly Asbury, Conrad Vernon
★★★★

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Once you get over how flat-out incredible the animation in "Shrek 2" is, you can enjoy it in every other way.

"Multilayered" is the best way to describe this triumphant sequel, which is suitable for kids but has plenty of rewarding moments for adults. It's simply packed with pop culture references (10 points if you spot the "Spinal Tap" nod!), at one point going through a rapid-fire series of film parodies. There's plenty going on that kids simply won't get, but they won't care — they'll be laughing too hard at the stuff they do get.

All of the major vocal talents from the original are back, with Mike Myers as Shrek, the cantankerous ogre with a heart of gold; Cameron Diaz as his ladylove, Fiona, and Eddie Murphy stealing scenes again as Donkey. New are the always-welcome John Cleese as Fiona's viciously bigoted father, Julie Andrews as Fiona's wonderfully mellow mother, Rupert Everett as preening mama's boy Prince Charming and Jennifer Saunders of "Absolutely Fabulous" as the scheming Fairy Godmother.

The most welcome addition, however, has to be Antonio Banderas as the would-be assassin Puss in Boots. Just as Catherine Zeta-Jones seems to have found her niche as a cell phone pitchwoman, Banderas has never been more entertaining than as the voice of the lethally cute Puss, whose animators obviously love, love, love cats. Puss stalks about on his hind legs with a posture that is somehow meerkat-erect and slumping at the same time, getting full mileage out of his super-suave catness.

The plot is sort of an extension of the '60s racial tension classic, "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" in which Fiona brings new husband Shrek home to meet her extremely proper parents for the first time. Meanwhile, the Fairy Godmother and her namby-pamby son, Prince Charming, are scheming to shoehorn their way into the monsters' wedded bliss. There's plenty of magic, music and quick-witted humor to carry the story along, and it all ends with a nice bow tied around it.

There is also a clear self-empowerment message, similar to the original's "be who you are" thrust. The commentary on bigotry never feels heavy-handed but instead forms a firm, rewarding foundation on which the prancing gingerbread men and three blind mice can play. Most of the creative team from the first movie is back, and they benefit from technological advances that make the animation downright breathtaking at times.

Suitable for all ages, good-natured and almost hyperactively smart, "Shrek 2" has all the earmarks of being a major hit.

Study in the USA

AMERICAN INTERCONTINENTAL UNIVERSITY

American InterContinental University - Los Angeles

Business Fashion Interior Design Visual Communication Information Technology

Not all universities are the same. Take a closer look.

4 starts per year. January, April, July, October
Associate Degree Programs, Bachelor Degree Programs
Study in the heart of Southern California
Graduate in as little as two years

Offering it's students a career focused education, American InterContinental University - Los Angeles has enhanced the career opportunities of hundreds of students just like you. If you want to take a step towards a successful career in
Business,
Fashion,
Interior Design,
Visual Communication
or Information Technology
contact our admissions team now.

Contact us now on
+1 310 302 2000
or via the web on
http://www.aiula.com

Graduating Seniors
Consolidate
Your Student Loans Today
and save more each month!

D id you know you will pay more in interest when you consolidate eligible student loans through the Federal Direct Consolidation Program compared to when you consolidate with the Student Loan Consolidation Center (SLCC)?

It's true. You don't have to pay more in interest because SLCC offers some of the best borrower benefits in the industry.

By consolidating with SLCC you can keep more of your money each month and reduce your interest rate at the same time.

If you are graduating this year please call the SLCC toll-free number today at 800-864-7053 and we will help you PAY LESS now.

SLCC

www.slccloans.com

SPORTS

WWW.LAVC.EDU LAVCSPORTS@YAHOO.COM

VALLEY PEOPLE - Chris Zakosek and Christie Sotelo

Valley's Ace Pitches With Fewer Distractions

■ Hearing-impaired pitcher finishes career at Valley.

BY SAM HAHN
STAFF WRITER

Monarch baseball players have a difficult time getting the attention of Valley pitcher Chris Zakosek as he walks on the field before a baseball game.

"Chris, hey Chris, damn ...Chris!" yell teammates Phil Rivers and Ryan Goodman. After failing to get his attention, the two players walk away.

Shortstop Abel Pulido sneaks up next to him and yells "Hey Chris! How are you!"

Smiling, Zakosek turns to Pulido and playfully embraces him. "Hey bro..." exclaims Zakosek. "How are you?"

What his own team forgets is that Zakosek (who is transferring to CSUN next fall) is hard of hearing. Literally. "I've lost a lot of my hearing over the years," Zakosek explains.

"When I was three years old, I had a swimming accident," recalls Zakosek, who wears a hearing aid in both ears. "I was under the water for over a minute and was halfway between drowning and brain damage. After the accident, I started losing my hearing."

Zakosek's mother, Cori, explains how their family didn't see the loss of hearing as a handicap. "Our family raised him like a normal child," says Cori. "We didn't want Chris to be left out of anything."

Having played baseball since he was seven, Zakosek doesn't think his loss of hearing affects him on the field. "There's really no difference. I have no problem on the field with my teammates," he says. "I didn't even learn sign language till I was in high school."

Zakosek, an electrical engineering major, pitched the Monarchs to their only win this season, against first place Mission College, and finished the season with a 1-8 record in 12 starts and had a 5.66 conference ERA. While obviously not a great number, he was a full two runs below Valley's team ERA (7.96).

And he has only been pitching for two years.

"I was a catcher all throughout high school," says Zakosek, "and last year [at Pasadena] the coach moved me over to pitch because he couldn't deal with me behind the plate."

"Chris was a great catcher here," explain Granada Hills High School coach Jesse Carranza. "I had no problems working with him while he played here." Carranza adds that Zakosek is still one of the most underrated catchers in the city.

Zakosek states that he decided to transfer to Valley after one season at Pasadena because the school was closer to home. "The drive to Pasadena was crazy..." explains Cori Zakosek. "I knew [Head Coach Chris Johnson] and he said that Chris would get an opportunity to play here."

When asked, fellow teammates jumped to talk about Zakosek.

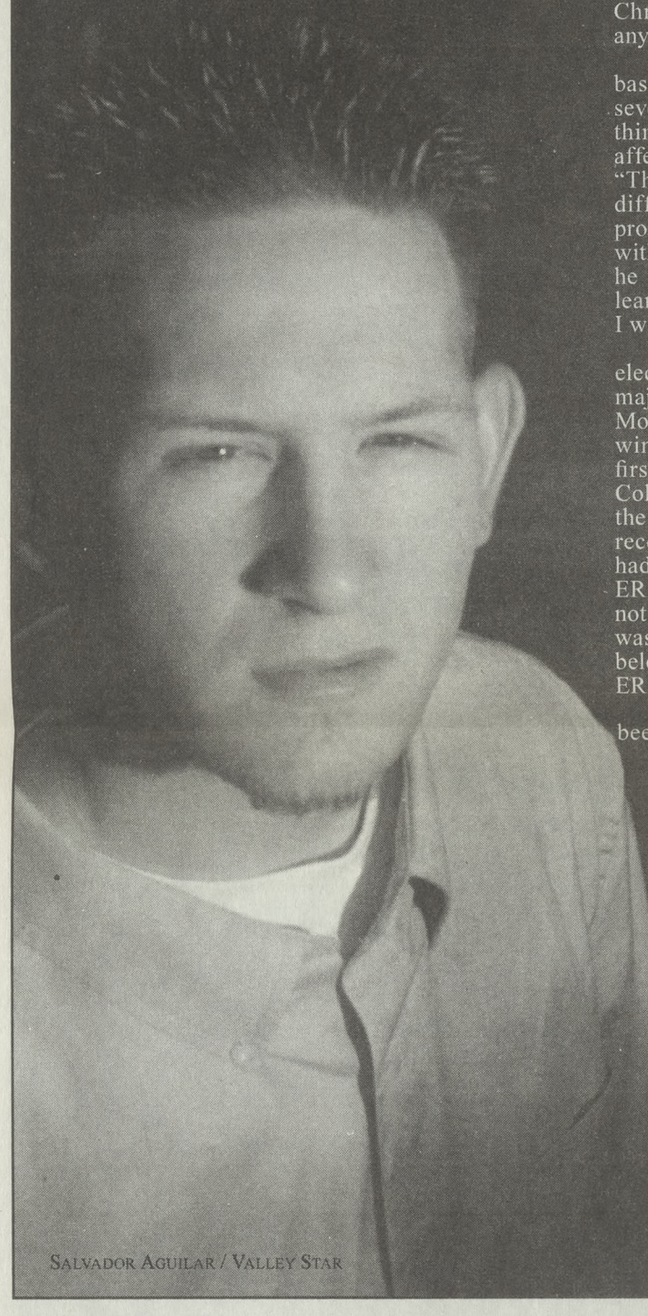
"Chris is a really good player, but he's a better teammate," adds Pulido, who is transferring next semester. "Playing with [Zakosek] this year has been really a pleasure. I'm going to miss him."

Fellow pitcher Jose Avila explains how Chris kept the team together during the season. "Chris has always helped [the team out] when we struggled this season...he helped up stay focused and allowed us to keep fighting."

"I'm going to miss these guys," reflects Zakosek. "I never felt at home when I pitched at Granada, or Pasadena. But, the first day with the [Valley squad] I was very surprised when [teammates] came over to talk to me."

Cori explains her son has opened up to his teammates. "Chris really saw a home at Valley [last season]. His teammates didn't brush him off...and [Coach Johnson] didn't mind dealing with Chris on the field."

"I want to play baseball and see how far it takes me," excitingly says Zakosek. "If not, I'll just fall back on my engineering degree."



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

From Valley Glen to Tennessee... to Quantico?

■ Lady Monarchs' star shortstop moves on to Lincoln Memorial with an eye toward joining the FBI.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

She was a late transfer from a rival school, she's only 19 and she was a career outfielder and pitcher who was asked to convert to shortstop as the season began. If the stellar year that the Valley College softball star and aspiring FBI agent had is any indication of how she responds to a challenge, criminals had better run for their lives from Christie Sotelo.

Sotelo racked up huge offensive numbers, ranking first or second on the Lady Monarchs in most categories, while learning the most difficult infield position from play-to-play. Did she regret transferring away from friends and a spot in the pitching rotation at Mission College only two weeks before the season?

"I think it's the best decision I've ever made," the ebullient sophomore said. "I'm way happy at Valley."

Christie Sotelo is lithe and quick, with a pretty, angular face that frequently breaks into a smile. Her mother, Irene Puentes, describes her as "always so happy and outgoing — she doesn't judge anybody. ... I can't explain her. You know that Dory fish in 'Finding Nemo?' That's her. She's just so ... Christie."

On the field, however, Sotelo has a totally different demeanor. It's easy to spot her hunger; she looks like she wants the ball to be hit to her on every play. In a recent game, after a diving stop deep in the hole followed by a long throw to retire the batter, she gave no indication that she was impressed with her feat. She simply got up, dusted herself off and returned to her spot for the next hitter.

"What nobody really knows is that she was a cheerleader [from] when she was 4 until she was 7," said her father, Frank Sotelo, an assistant coach for the Lady Monarchs. "They had competitions, and she was winning gold medals. But when she was 7, she saw me play softball and wanted in."

"I'm a competitive player," Christie acknowledges. She's also a vocal team leader. "I said what I had to say. [Sometimes I] put people in their place. I made good friends ... the team got along. You could say we consider it a big family of sisters."

Sotelo went to Mission College straight out of high school, but it didn't work out.

"Too many distractions," she said. "I was distracted by my cousins, my boyfriend. ... I didn't like the coach or the team. My cousin [Tommy Sotelo] practiced here and endorsed coach [Frankie] Garcia ... so I transferred two weeks before the semester began."

Valley's star catcher, Lorena Arreguin, had played with Sotelo on and off from the time they were 8 years old. She was thrilled to learn that her friend would be joining her on the Lady Monarchs and was impressed with the way Sotelo picked up the shortstop position.

"Sometimes she made plays like it was natural to her," said Arreguin. "I wouldn't want to play against her."

Unfortunately for Valley sports fans, Sotelo is moving on to Lincoln Memorial in Tennessee, where she will be the regular shortstop. She was originally set to go to the University of North Carolina, but an injury to their pitching staff forced them to shuffle their scholarships, leaving her the odd woman out. Sotelo, however, is characteristically upbeat about the change in plan.

"I'd rather go out there and play than redshirt [in another program], she said.

Frank Sotelo said he's not worried about his daughter's move to Tennessee. "The coach kept calling — they've got six girls from California on the team. [Christie's] got a good head on her shoulders."

At Lincoln Memorial, Sotelo will study psychology and foreign languages in order to prepare for her application to the FBI.

"They don't accept many criminal justice majors," she explains, saying that she's drawn to the forensics side of investigation. "I like to analyze."

Sotelo expects to be in school at least five more years to achieve her goal.

"My uncle used to be in the government," she says of her inspiration to join the bureau. "He used to do communications for the United Nations. When I was 8-to-10, I got to go to the White House and flew in the green helicopter.

"Plus, my uncle's best friends are in the FBI ... and it's not as stressful as the Secret Service," she adds with a smile.

"She's so determined in whatever she's doing," said teammate Arreguin, "I wouldn't want to be on her most wanted list."

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?
E-mail Valley Star Sports at
LAVCsports@Yahoo.com
or use AIM to text message
user "*BobTeichmann*"

BSU Caribbean Day

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The Black Student Union held its Caribbean Day celebration in the Fireside Room at Valley College May 19.

David Muñoz, Interclub council representative, and Crystal Honey from the BSU organized the event in hopes of broadening student awareness of life in that part of the world.

"People have this stereotypical concept of Caribbean culture," said Muñoz, whose ancestry is Dominican. "The main goal of this event is to educate students about the lifestyle and to break down these stereotypical ideas."

Nearly 30 guests enjoyed a $5 bowl of fresh-cooked jerk chicken with rice and beans courtesy of Derrick's Jamaican Cuisine in Los Angeles, with the proceeds going to the BSU. Several students of Jamaican ancestry read poems from their favorite authors or original pieces.

Among the several guest speakers was Patricia Vareas, also from the Dominican Republic. Vareas, a nursing student at Valley, said that although she considers her country Third World, she believes that changes are about to happen now due to recent elections.

"Life is very hard core there," said Vareas. "University is very expensive with no financial aid. Life here in America is much easier and the economics are much better."

'GM Foods'

continued from page 5

free of GMOs. According to UCLA's experts, although GM foods are not permitted in Mexico, tests have shown that GMOs do come up in some of their foods and plants.

The push forward with GM foods and the pesticides that are part of the factory farming process continues with profit as a powerful motive.

California grows more than half of all the produce eaten in America – more than $27 billion annually. D'Arrigo Bros. alone is pulling in around $200 million annually, doubling its profits in the just the last 10 years.

Citing the success of Measure H against the biotech industry's campaign, David Drell from the Campaign for a GMO-Free Mendocino said, "People can overcome money."

Numerous counties are considering GMO bans and taking action toward becoming free of GM crops.

Official state stats online - Go to www.coasports.org

'E-Voting'

continued from page 2

their own tampered paper copies.

The company also dismisses security concerns as "unfounded and blames human and mechanical errors," according to the Associated Press.

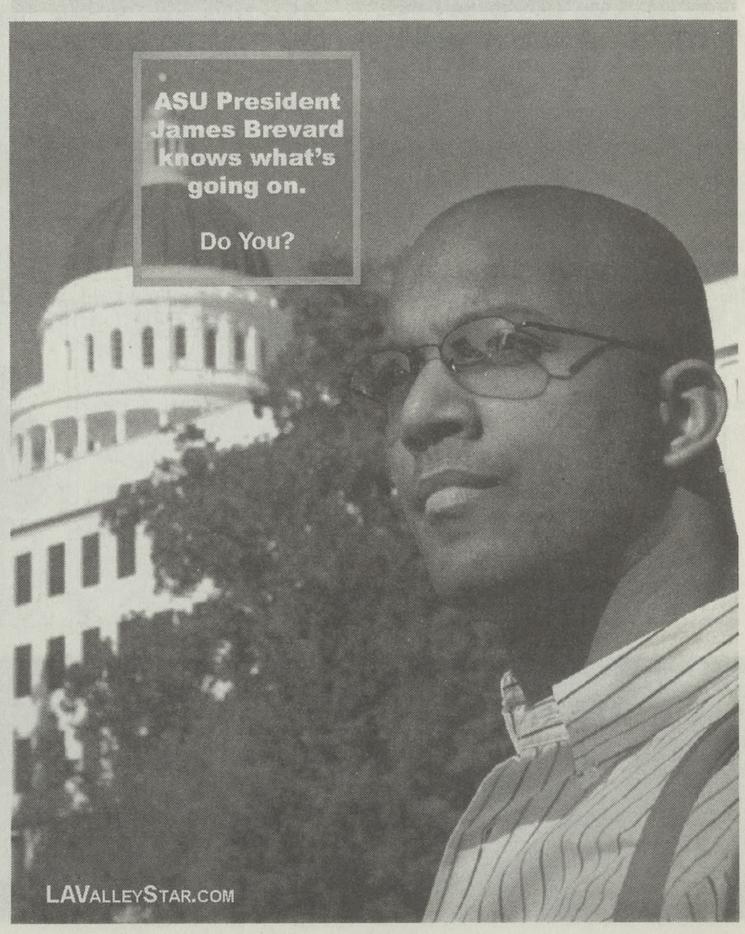
However, Stephen Ansolabahere, a voting expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, told CNN, "The computer science community has pretty much rallied against electronic voting. A disproportionate number of computer scientists who have weighed in on this issue are opposed to it."

The Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2003, which would require the new systems to provide a voter-verified paper audit trail, had 132 house co-sponsors. But nearly a year later, it has not received committee consideration in Congress.

PRO SCORES

NBA PLAYOFFS
Western Conference Finals
(2) L.A. Lakers vs. (1) Mn. T'Wolves
(W 100-89) 5/25/04
LAL - Kobe Bryant: 22 pts, 10-11 ft, 6 ast
LAL - Shaquille O'Neal: 22 pts, 17 rb, 4 ast
LAL - Gary Payton: 18 pts, 9 ast, 5 rb
MIN - Kevin Garnett: 22 pts, 11 rb, 7 ast
Series Record: LAL leads 2-1
Game 4: Thursday @ LA, TNT 6 p.m.

Eastern Conference Finals
(1) Ind. Pacers vs. (3) Det. Pistons
(L 67-72) 5/25/04
DET - Richard Hamilton: 23 pts, 8 reb
DET - Rasheed Wallace: 10 pts, 8 rb
IND - Reggie Miller: 21 pts, 6 rb
Series Record: Tied 1-1
Game 3: Wednesday @ Detroit, ESPN 5: 30 p.m.



It Is Now the Law

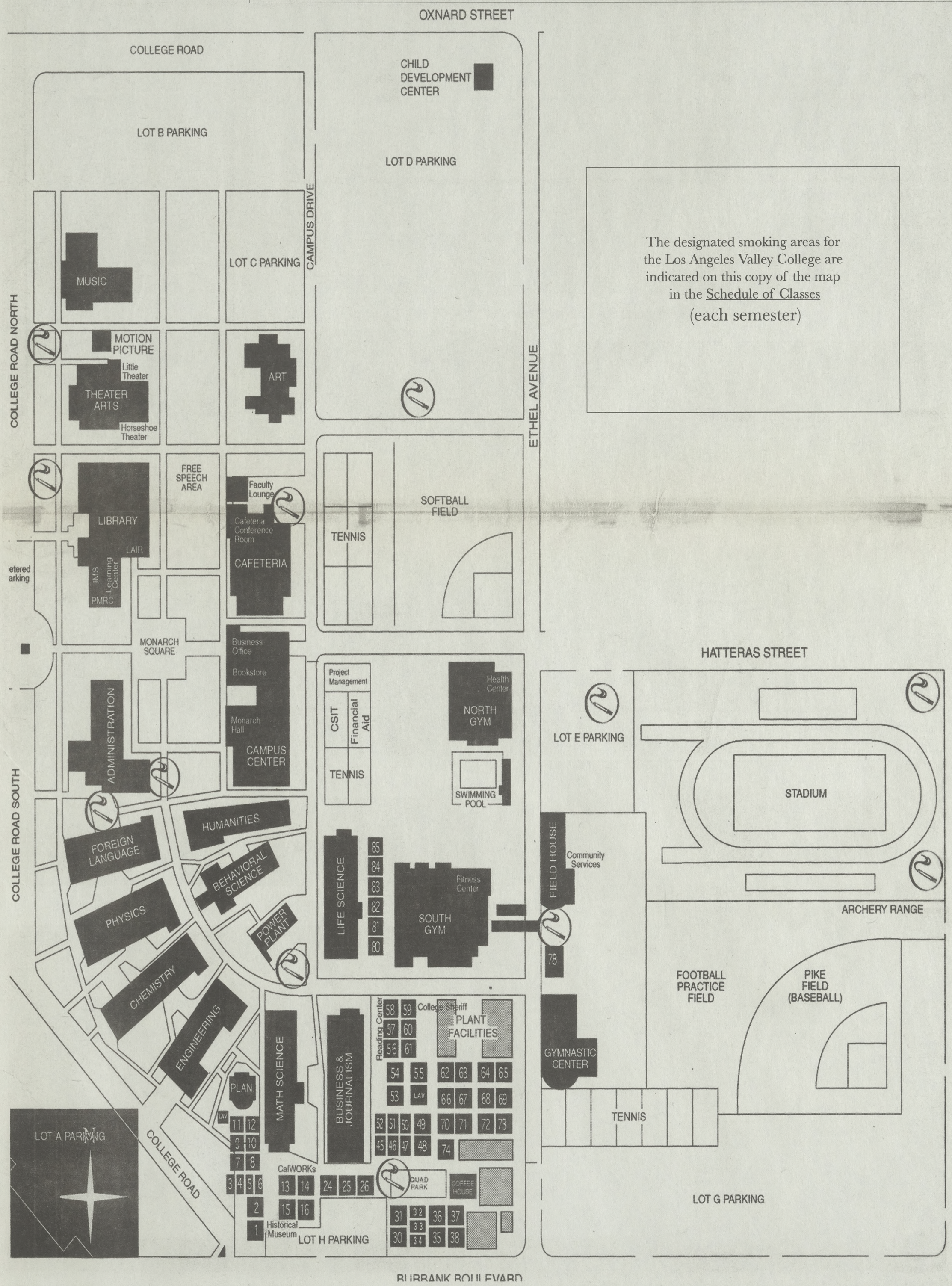
>>

On January 1, 2004 a new law affecting public buildings went into effect.

Assembly Bill 846 (AB 846) prohibits smoking within 20 feet of any main entrance, exit, or operable window of any buildings owned and occupied or leased and occupied by the state, county, or city, and buildings of the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and California community colleges. In addition to this new law, Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) has a designated smoking area policy on campus.

If you have any questions please call
(818) 901-4621 (TIPS)
Tobacco Intervention Program for Students

This material was made possible by funds through the Proposition 99 Tax Initiative from Los Angeles County Department Of Health Services



The designated smoking areas for the Los Angeles Valley College are indicated on this copy of the map in the Schedule of Classes (each semester)

GALLERY

Our BEST Images: SPRING 2004

LAYOUT AND TEXT BY
GABY ALONSO
PHOTO EDITOR

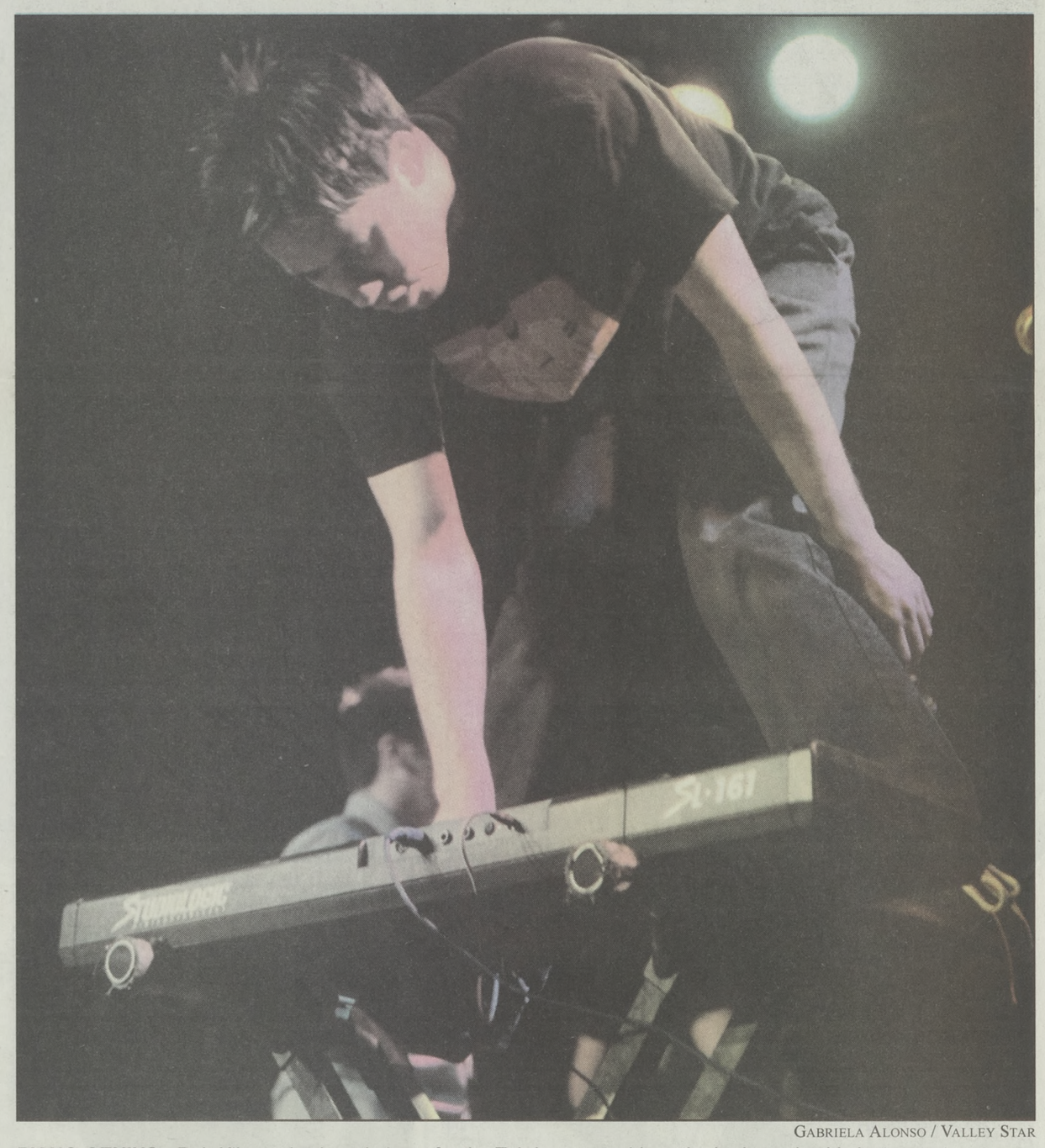
These are some highlights from this semester. Our staff enjoyed the challenge of capturing the moment to bring the action closer to our readers.

BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR

STANDING TALL - Day in and day out, Valley Monarch pitcher Corey Brown puts up with game play of his team.

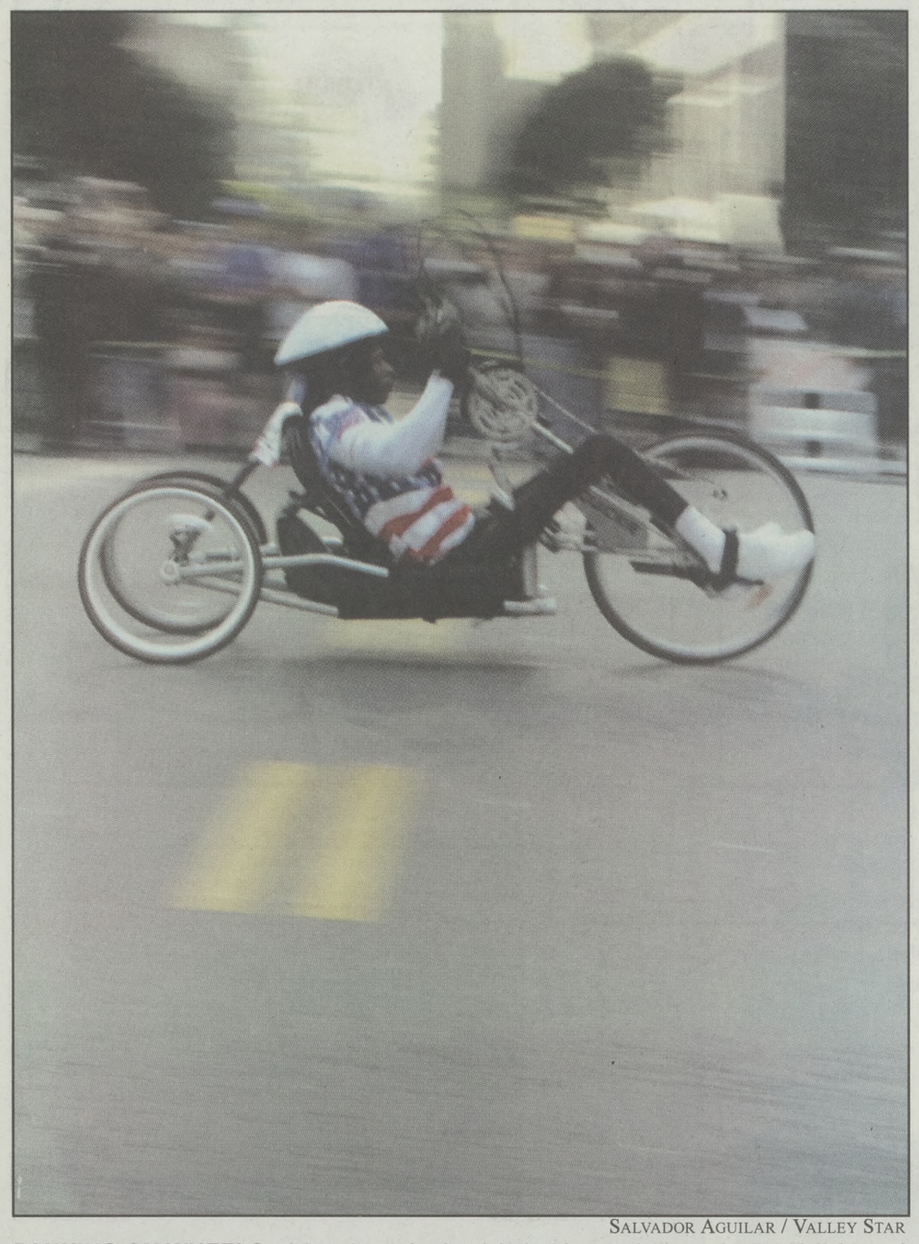
TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

NO PAY DIRT - Clint A. Hunter of Eureka California rides Broken Bone but is thrown off before the eight-second buzzer during the Springville April 25, 2004.



GABRIELA ALONSO / VALLEY STAR

PIANO GENIUS - Rob Kliener, keyboard player for the Tubrings, uses his entire body to play his instrument.



SALVADOR AGUILAR / VALLEY STAR

PANNING ON WHEELS - A hand-crank wheelchair rider participates in the 19th Annual Los Angeles Marathon March 7 in 87-degree heat.

JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

WAITING FOR THE BUS - While waiting for the bus to the "March in March" at Sacramento, Oleg Kagan and Efrain Gonzales entertain themselves by playing chess at parking lot B.